

U. S. Department of Justice

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# FEDERAL BUREAU

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# INVESTIGATION

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

PFK:lem

August 21, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. P. E. FOXWORTH

Re: MARGUERITE HARRISON.

Pursuant to the Director's request, there is submitted herewith a memorandum containing a summary of the information in the files regarding Marguerite Harrison. It will be noted that except for the data contained in Who's Who there is no information available as to subject's whereabouts since 1923.

Respectfully,

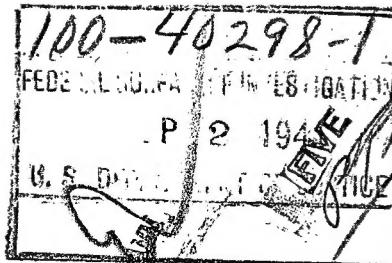
*R. P. Kramer*  
R. P. Kramer

8/23/41

Set. for Angeles  
CHC

Enclosure

RECORDED



CHC:LL

RECORDED

August 23, 1941

AIR MAIL  
SPECIAL DELIVERY

100-40298-1

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

Re: MARGUERITE HARRISON

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith copies of a memorandum dated August 21, 1941, concerning the above named individual.

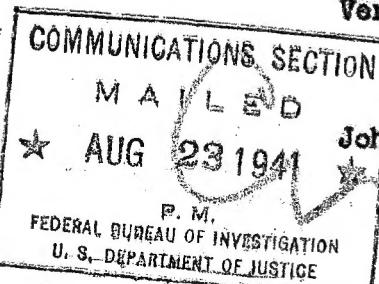
It will be noted from the information contained in this memorandum that Marguerite Harrison has in the past engaged in very significant activities. I am advised that she is currently engaged in making speeches throughout Southern California with regard to the advantages of furnishing immediate and direct aid to Russia. It is reported that this woman, who is alleged to be residing in Los Angeles, California, has during the recent past conducted many lectures and talks, possibly on behalf of foreign principals, the nature of her activities indicating that she may be a paid agent thereof.

In view of the nature of this individual's activities and the significance with regard thereto, I am completely unable to understand why your office has not recently furnished the Bureau information in this connection. It will be noted from the memorandum that the Bureau has no information in its files whatsoever relative to the recent whereabouts or activities of Marguerite Harrison. I desire an immediate explanation from you in connection with this matter.

You are instructed to effect appropriate arrangements immediately whereby information concerning the activities of this person may be obtained in a most discreet manner, and your office and the Bureau kept thereafter advised in the premises.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



Inclosure

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Foxworth  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Drayton  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Tracy  
Miss Gandy

PFK:lem

August 21, 1941

M E M O R A N D U M

RE: MARGUERITE HARRISON

The 1940-41 edition of WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA contains the following information regarding Marguerite Harrison:

"HARRISON, Marguerite, author; b. Baltimore, Md.; d. Bernard N. and Elizabeth Elton (Livezey) Baker; ed. St. Timothy Sch., Catonsville, Md.; m. Thomas Bullitt Harrison, of Baltimore, 1902 (died 1915); m. 2d, Arthur M. Blake, 1926. Began as reporter on Baltimore Sun, 1916; newspaper corr. with A.E.F., in France, 1918; in Germany 8 mos., following Armistice, later in Poland and Russia; lectured in U.S., 1921-22 and winter, 1924-25; made motion picture entitled "Grass," 1923-24. Club: Women's City (New York). Author: Marooned in Moscow, 1921; Unfinished Stories from Russian Prisons, 1923; Red Bear or Yellow Dragon, 1924; Asia Reborn, 1928; Go West--Go Wise, 1930; Saints Run Mad, 1934."

The following extract from WIRELESS NEWS of January 7, 1928, was received from the State Department:

"To Wiegand, Berlin.

MOSCOW, January 4.

"A. The data given by the Extraordinary Commission in regard to the case of Mrs. Harrison, the Associated Press Correspondent, who is in prison in Moscow, are as follows -

Mrs. Harrison has been a professional spy since May, 1917, when she entered the service of the Department of Justice, Baltimore Section. Later she was transferred to the Military Intelligence and under instructions from that Department, in the guise of a Newspaper Correspondent, she visited England, Switzerland, Belgium, Germany and Lithuania. She arrived in Russian territory in December, 1919, with

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Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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100-40298-1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALP 2/1/1941

RECEIVED

"the aid of the American Embassy at Warsaw, and of the Polish military authorities. She was arrested at Moscow shortly after her arrival. Realizing the seriousness of the situation and considering the evidence against her as a military and political spy, she confessed everything. She offered information and future services to the Soviet Government. She gave the Extraordinary Commission a list of British and American spies in Russia and their connections with counter-revolutionary organizations in Russia. Also to some extent (she is) responsible for the fact (1 that permits of entry into) Russia were not granted because of the information she gave regarding their connection with secret organizations. As agent of the Soviets, she is responsible for the arrest of many of her compatriots. In some cases she gave correct information, in others absolutely false. As a logical conclusion, her double existence led to her own arrest. To the second query, why Americans are not released with British, the answer is that the British Government has an agreement with the Soviet Government concerning the exchange of prisoners, while the American Government has no such agreement."

A memorandum in the file dated March 22, 1922, states that the Bureau has never been able to obtain direct information regarding Mrs. Harrison's connection with one of the intelligence departments of this government but that it has always been assumed that she was in the employ of the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department. (62-67-4)

On September 23, 1921, Mrs. Harrison was scheduled to speak at a meeting at the Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City, held under the auspices of the New York Committee for Russian Relief, but she was unable to attend this meeting. Other speakers at the meeting included Lewis S. Gannett, editor of the Nation, and Louise Bryant, wife of John Reed.

(Bureau Section 202600-2593-1)

In September, 1921, Margaret Harrison made a report to the Secretary of State on her trip to Russia. In this report she advocated the de facto recognition of Russia by all of the great powers. (61-16-18)

In December, 1921, Mrs. Harrison was interviewed by Special Agent George J. Starr of the New York Office. She advised him that she had been approached by Walter Biggett of Minnesota who desired that she and Senator France of Maryland go on a tour for the Russian Red Cross. The tour was to be under the direction of Dr. D. H. Dubrowesky. In connection with this tour, Mrs. Harrison offered to furnish information which she might secure on the trip to the Bureau. She stated that she was in close touch with all prominent radicals. She further advised Agent Starr that she had been in close touch with Mr. W. L. Hurley of the State Department and that all of her activities since returning to the United States had been with the consent of the State Department. (62-670-4)

On December 31, 1921, Mrs. Harrison spoke at a meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, held under the auspices of the American Committee for Russian Famine Relief. In her address she spoke of the need for food, clothing and relief supplies in general in Russia. She said that her imprisonment in Russia by the Soviet Government was justified since she was in that country without permission and had violated certain rules. She said that the treatment of the prisoners by the Russian Government was humane and she spoke in a laudatory manner of the Soviet Government.

Mrs. Harrison also spoke at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on January 1, 1922, at which time she stated that she was not a Socialist and that she was not in sympathy with the Socialist Party. She stated that there were "no people on the face of the earth more deserving of our help and money than the Russian peasant, and I believe we should trade with Russia."

On January 3, 1922, she spoke at a meeting in Arcadia Hall, Detroit, Michigan, held under the auspices of the American Committee for Russian Famine Relief. Senator Joseph I. France of Maryland, who had also recently visited Russia, was another speaker at the meeting. (61-34-12)

Francis Ralston Welsh, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, by letter dated February 20, 1922, advised that Marguerite Harrison, "a Red" of Baltimore, Maryland, had delivered an address at Bryn Mawr College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a short time before. He observed that this school had become one of the centers of Red propaganda. (61-105-34)

On March 22, 1922, Mrs. Harrison delivered a speech at Arlington Hall, New York City. She was introduced by Albert Rhys Williams as a writer for the Associated Press and as having been in Russia during the second stage of the Russian Revolution. Mrs. Harrison explained that she had been in Russia for about two years and that she did not blame the Soviet Government for throwing her into prison as she had no business in Russia and that they had told her to keep out of the country. She further explained that she did not believe in the Marx ideas or Communism and that she was opposed to the principles ~~of~~ and would never believe in them. However, she stated that she believed the Soviet Government would live and function and build itself up more powerfully. At this meeting she was asked the following question. "Is it true that you are a Secret Service Agent of the United States Government?" Much talk has been heard on this subject amongst the comrades here, they claiming that you went to Russia as a spy for the United States Government, France and England. Will you please explain whether this is true?" Mrs. Harrison then remarked, "Yes, and of Poland too." (61-946-4) (62-670)

The monthly General Intelligence Report of Special Agent J. T. Flournoy, Washington, D. C., dated May 16, 1922, reflects that Mrs. Harrison, a former Associated Press correspondent who had been a prisoner in Russia for ten months, spoke before the University Club, Washington, D. C., on May 27, 1922. In her speech she stated that the Red Army was not a Communist Army but for the most part was made up of the members of the old Monarchist Army. She stated that they were in the Army either because of their spirit of nationalism or because they were paid soldiers. (61-45-38)

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Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The report of Special Agent Edward P. Morse, San Francisco, dated August 26, 1922, on the general Japanese situation in the San Francisco District reflects that according to information from Tokyo a sensation in official circles followed the publication there on August 24, 1922, of charges that Marguerite Harrison was a Soviet spy. The officials had received her with all courtesy and had invited her to their homes. She had been writing pro-Japanese articles for the "Chugal," a leading commercial paper from Siberia. (65-302-45)

According to a Weekly Intelligence Report from the Seattle Office for the week ending December 23, 1922, Russian officials at Moscow, Russia, said that the arrest at Chita, Far Eastern Republic, of Mrs. Marguerite Harrison, an American magazine writer, was under investigation and that she would probably be deported by way of a Pacific port. It was asserted that when Mrs. Harrison left Moscow the year before, she signed papers agreeing never to return to Russia. The Moscow officials were of the opinion that she was arrested in consequence of violation of them. (61-30-98)

A memorandum in the file regarding Sidney Hillman dated July 26, 1939, states that Marguerite E. Harrison was one of the members of the American Civil Liberties Union who subscribed to stock in the Russian-American Industrial Corporation in 1922. The memorandum stated that Sidney Hillman was President and that Jacob S. Petofsky was Secretary-Treasurer. The organization had sent out a prospectus to its followers stating that it had obtained a concession from the Bolshevik Government and was offering its stock at ten dollars per share. (61-7537-3012)

An editorial which appeared in the January 19, 1923, issue of the Washington Evening Star stated that Mrs. Margaret E. Harrison of Baltimore was in prison in Moscow, Russia. The editorial stated that,

"it is probable that she will again be expelled although under the Russian law she is ~~subject~~ liable to a severer penalty

"for reentering the country after being turned out. Her travels in Mongolia, Manchuria and China at a critical time for the Soviets caused much suspicion among the authorities here who regarded Mrs. Harrison as a political agent." (61-45-60)

According to the March 24, 1923, issue of the New York Evening Telegram, Mrs. Marguerite Harrison, a magazine writer, was detained by the Soviet Government as an American spy for ten months after her first arrest in 1921 and again for three months during the past winter. Upon her return to this country Mrs. Harrison made complimentary statements regarding the Soviet Government and stated that after all of her experiences in Russia, she wanted to go back if she was ever given permission. She stated that the best thing for all concerned would be for the United States to recognize Russia. (62-677)

The Weekly Intelligence Report of Acting Special Agent in Charge H. L. Scott, Seattle, Washington, dated June 30, 1923, states that the Russian daily paper "Zaria" on May 13, 1923, disclosed that Miss Marguerite Harrison, an American newspaperwoman and a spy twice arrested in Russia, had published a confession that she was an American Secret Service Agent of the Department of Justice and that she was working against Russia and Germany. (61-30-126)

A letter dated May 4, 1925, from the Acting President, Boards of Parole, advises that on that date the parole case of one Margaret Harrison was submitted to the Attorney General. The letter states that she was convicted in the District of Columbia of violating the Act of December 17, 1914, and sentenced October 12, 1923, to a term of two years in the Stark County Workhouse, Canton, Ohio. It is impossible to positively identify this person as being identical with the subject although the letter was placed in the main file of Marguerite Harrison. (62-670-6)

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California  
August 28, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: MARGUERITE HARRISON, alias Mrs. Arthur M. Blake.  
INTERNAL SECURITY - R, CP.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 23, 1941, transmitting copies of a memorandum dated August 21, 1941, concerning the above named individual, who was described in reference letter only as MARGUERITE HARRISON.

Kindly be advised that the name of this individual has never appeared in any Communist Party publication or leaflet in the Southern California area as having been connected with any Communist Party activity. She is not known to have been active in this field to any of the confidential informants who are thoroughly familiar with Communist Party activities in this area. The reference transmittals fail to reflect that she has been active in the Los Angeles area.

MARGUERITE HARRISON is undoubtedly identical with the MARGUERITE HARRISON who resides at 1329 North Formosa Avenue, Hollywood, California, telephone Hillside 4087. She is the wife of a moving picture actor by the name of ARTHUR M. BLAKE, who also resides at that address. By way of identification, the photograph of ARTHUR M. BLAKE appears in the 1941 issue of the Players' Directory, page 183. This directory reflects that the agent of ARTHUR M. BLAKE is Hallam Cooley Agency, with DEMMY LAMSON as an associate, telephone Crestview 5-6161.

It is felt that should MARGUERITE HARRISON have been active in the Communist Party, her identity would have become known before this to the Los Angeles Division Office. In the Hollywood motion picture field, we understand that there are numerous small groups or home meetings where expressions result sometimes, pertaining to ideologies with which the Bureau is concerned on investigations.

From the history of MARGUERITE HARRISON, as is reflected in the reference enclosures, she undoubtedly should be the subject of an investigation, and therefore investigative file has been opened on MARGUERITE HARRISON to ascertain whether she could possibly be an agent of a foreign principal.

9-10-35  
R-230

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Director

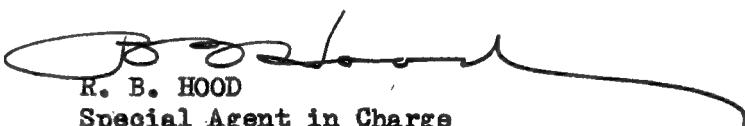
-2-

August 28, 1941

Re: Marguerite Harrison, wa.  
Internal Security - R, CP.

In April 1936, there was a MARGARET HARRISON in San Francisco connected with the "Humanist Society of Friends". This MARGARET HARRISON was an observer to the convention of the "California State Conference Against War and Fascism" in 1936 at San Francisco. This same person in 1938 was connected with the People's World Sustaining Fund of Alameda, California, and she was mentioned in the People's World issue of December 22, 1938, and again in the People's World of January 25, 1939, as having collected \$2.50 for the People's World Sustaining Fund at Oakland, California. It is not known at present whether she is identical with the MARGUERITE HARRISON of the instant subject matter.

Very truly yours,

  
R. B. HOOD  
Special Agent in Charge

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

DWM:KH  
62-2163

cc San Francisco  
San Diego

JKM:BK

September 9, 1941

RECORDED

100-40298-2

Special Agent in Charge  
San Diego, California

Re: MARGUERITE HARRISON

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the letter dated August 28, 1941, addressed to me by the Los Angeles Field Office, copies of which were designated to your office, concerning the captioned individual. For the completion of your file, I am transmitting herewith two copies of the memorandum dated August 21, 1941, summarizing data in the Bureau's files concerning Marguerite Harrison who was referred to in the first paragraph of the reference letter.

It is my desire that you contact General Van Deman and advise him confidentially concerning this background information relative to Marguerite Harrison.

It is also desired that the Los Angeles Office proceed discreetly with the investigation referred to in my letter of August 23, 1941. It is particularly suggested that a determination be made as to whether the individuals referred to in the Los Angeles letter dated August 28, 1941, are identical with the subject of the memorandum dated August 21, 1941.

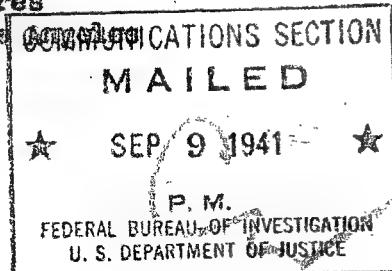
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John Edgar Hoover  
Director

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Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

9  
-26  
Enclosures

cc - Los



JKM: BK

August 21, 1941

MEMORANDUM

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INDEXER

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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R-230

Index as summary

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JULY 1941

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On March 12, 1922, Mrs. Harrison delivered a speech at Arlington Hall, New York City. She was introduced by Albert Rhys Williams as a writer for the Associated Press and as having been in Russia during the second stage of the Russian Revolution. Mrs. Harrison explained that she had been in Russia for about two years.

and that she did not blame the Soviet Government for throwing her into prison as she had no business in Russia and that they had told her to keep out of the country. She further explained that she did not believe in the Marx ideas or Communism and that she was opposed to the principles and would never believe in them. However, she stated that she believed the Soviet Government would live and function and build itself up more powerfully. At this meeting she was asked the following question: "Is it true that you are a Secret Service Agent of the United States Government? Much talk has been heard on this subject amongst the comrades here, they claiming that you went to Russia as a spy for the United States Government, France and England. Will you please explain whether this is true?" Mrs. Harrison then remarked, "Yes, and of Poland too."

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63777

JKM: BK  
100-40298

October 18, 1941

Special Agent in Charge  
San Diego, California

Re: MARGUERITE HARRISON

Dear Sir:

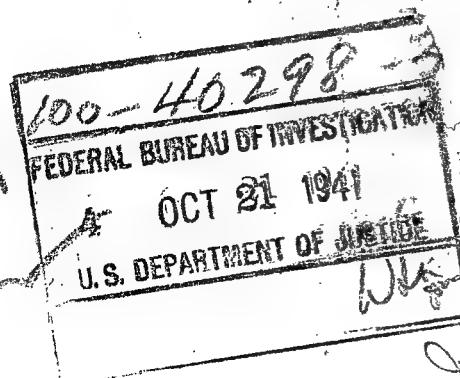
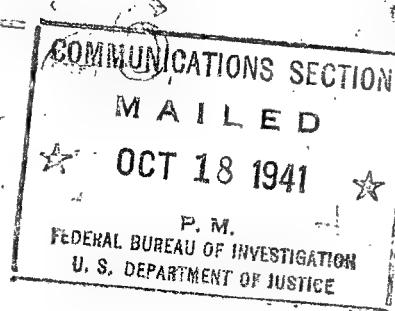
I desire that both offices receiving copies of this letter refer to my communication dated September 9, 1941, and advise me by return mail the action taken in this case and its present status.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc - Los Angeles

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rondon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Candy \_\_\_\_\_



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Room 728  
530 Broadway  
San Diego, Calif.



Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
San Diego, California

October 22, 1941.

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: MARGUERITE HARRISON

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letters to the San Diego Field Office dated September 9 and October 18, 1941, Bureau File Number 100-40298.

As requested in Bureau letter of September 9, 1941, General R. H. VAN DEMAN was confidentially advised concerning the background of MARGUERITE HARRISON as it appears in the Bureau memorandum dated August 21, 1941.

Very truly yours,

*H. Nathan*  
H. NATHAN  
Special Agent in Charge

FCD:iej  
100-1807  
cc - Los Angeles

CH-23<sup>195</sup>

Rec'd. 11/14/41 1:00 PM

EX-10  
RECORDED  
INDEXED  
*sm*

9

100-40298-4

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |  |
| 3 OCT 27 1941                   |  |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE     |  |
| <i>WMA</i>                      |  |

JKM: BK  
100-40298

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

NOVEMBER 3, 1941

Transmit the following message to:

SAC, SAN DIEGO  
LOS ANGELES

CODE

MARGUERITE HARRISON; INTERNAL SECURITY. COMPLY WITH MY LETTER DATED  
OCTOBER EIGHTEEN LAST IMMEDIATELY.

HOOVER

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Drayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

CH-111  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV 3 1941

TELETYPE

SENT VIA

1010G

Per

77

BA ~~CODED AND SENT~~

RECORDED

100-40298-5

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAILED IN DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

NOV 3 1941

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

057

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV 4 1941

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Holloman .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Miss Candy .....  
*Reed Tamm*

FBI SAN D 11-4-41 11-10 AM IEJ JEC

DIRECTOR

RETEL MARGUERITE ~~HARRISON~~ HARRISON, INTERNAL SECURITY. NOTE  
LETTER FROM THIS OFFICE OCTOBER TWENTWO AND ADVISE ANY FURTHER  
ACTION DESIRED BY SAN DIEGO.

NATHAN

END

OK FBI WASH DC WV

RECORDED

100-40298-6

|                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|------|
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |      |
| NOV 7 1941                      |      |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE     |      |
| LADD                            | REED |

23  
CH-21

RECORDED

EX-5

059

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV 4 1941

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Holoman  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

*PK Francher*

FBI LOS ANGELES 11-4-41 11-16 AM GWS

DIRECTOR

MARGUERITE HARRISON, INTERNAL SECURITY. RETEL DATED NOVEMBER THIRD  
LAST. REPORT BEING FORWARDED TODAY.

HOOD

END

OK FBI WASH DC RDN

RECORDED

*100-40298-7*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
NOV 7 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

LADD *FM*

861-1846

EX-5

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

FILE NO. **100-1807**

|  |                                   |   |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA</b>                                       | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>11-24-41</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>11-18-41</b>      | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>F. C. DORWART</b> |
| TITLE<br><b>MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE,<br/>alias Marguerite Harrison</b> |                                   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>INTERNAL SECURITY</b> |  |

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Major General R. H. VAN DEMAN first met subject at the time of the Peace Conference in Paris following the Armistice, she being one of the accredited correspondents from the United States. At her own request she was sent from Paris to Berlin in 1919 and later in the same year entered Russia where she was arrested. General VAN DEMAN has not seen nor heard from subject since she left Paris to go to Russia in 1919. He doubts that she gave the Russian Government information which led to the arrest of her compatriots.

→ RUC →

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau letter to San Diego dated September 9, 1941.

Bureau letter to San Diego dated October 18, 1941. (100-40298)

Report of Special Agent S. R. HUSSO, dated November 4, 1941.

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br><i>CH-3</i>   | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE:<br><i>3-5-40298-8</i> | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES<br><i>NOV 26 1941</i>         |  |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 - Bureau<br><input type="checkbox"/> 2 - Los Angeles<br><input type="checkbox"/> 2 - Washington, D.C.<br><input type="checkbox"/> 2 - San Diego |  | RECORDED<br><input type="checkbox"/> INDEXED<br><i>mem</i> |  |
| COPIES DESTROYED <i>9-10-58</i><br><i>P-230</i>  |  |  |  |

DETAILS: AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

By letter dated September 9, 1941, the Bureau transmitted to the San Diego Field Division two copies of a memorandum dated August 21, 1941, which summarized the data in Bureau files concerning MARGUERITE HARRISON, and requested that General VAN DEMAN be confidentially advised concerning this background information relative to MARGUERITE HARRISON. This matter was brought to the attention of General VAN DEMAN immediately thereafter.

Referenced Bureau letter dated October 18, 1941 requested that the Bureau be immediately advised as to the action taken in this case and as to its present status, and by letter dated October 22, 1941, the Bureau was advised that this matter had been brought to the attention of Major General VAN DEMAN.

The referenced report of Special Agent S. R. RUSSO contained an undeveloped lead for the San Diego Office to interview General VAN DEMAN for the purpose of developing any information he might have relative to subversive activities or tendencies on the part of subject.

General VAN DEMAN was interviewed by reporting Agent on November 18, 1941 and he advised that he first met MARGUERITE HARRISON after the Armistice of World War One and during the time that the Peace Conference was being organized in Paris. He stated that correspondents of various American newspapers who were accredited by the State Department had to report to him and that in this way he became acquainted with MARGUERITE HARRISON. He stated that he cannot recall the exact circumstances, but he believes that she must have been brought to his attention by someone and he believes that she had previously done some work for M.I.D. or the State Department in the United States. In any event, he stated that she offered to be of

any service which she could and he asked her to pay particular attention to some of the correspondents of whom he was somewhat doubtful and asked her to be present at all of the meetings of these correspondents. He stated that she did this work of her own volition and was not employed at that time by M.I.D.

General VAN DEMAN continued that by happenstance she was in his office when he was discussing the desirability of having someone go to Berlin and that she offered to perform the duties necessitating this trip and was thereupon sent to Berlin, being very successful in completing the work requested of her and at this time she was sent by M.I.D. He stated that she thereafter reported to him verbally on conditions in Berlin and probably made a written report to M.I.D. in Washington regarding the Bolshevik uprising in 1919 in Berlin.

General VAN DEMAN stated that a short time thereafter MARGUERITE HARRISON advised him that she wished to be sent to Russia and he strongly recommended against her going, but she finally made it clear that she was going anyway and that being the case, M.I.D. arranged for her entrance into Russia. He stated that following her entrance into Russia, she would make reports to M.I.D. directly in Washington but that he has not seen or heard from her directly since that time, although she has appeared in San Diego on several occasions and talked before Civic Groups.

General VAN DEMAN in commenting on the information contained in the Bureau memorandum stated that he was positive that MARGUERITE HARRISON had arrived in Russian territory prior to December, 1919. He also stated that he doubted very much that she had ever furnished information to the Russian authorities regarding her compatriots in Russia which led to their arrest, pointing out that the memorandum states that "she was arrested at Moscow shortly after her arrival," and thereafter stating that "As agent of the

"Soviets, she is responsible for the arrest of many of her compatriots. In some cases she gave correct information and in others absolutely false. As a logical conclusion, her double existence led to her own arrest," that is, in one place indicating that she was arrested shortly after her arrival in Russia and in the other indicating that it was following her giving of some correct and some false information concerning her compatriots which led to her arrest.

General VAN DEMAN stated that he could make no statement as to whether subject might now be acting as an Agent for the Soviet Government inasmuch as he had not seen or heard from her since 1919 and since she had married an Englishman of whom he knows nothing. He stated that in her writings it has always appeared rather strange to him that she has never shown any animosity or resentment towards the Russians who imprisoned her.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 62-2163

|   |                           |  |                                   |
|---|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>Los Angeles, California                                     | DATE WHEN MADE<br>11-4-41 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>8/28/41;<br>10/27, 30/41; | REPORT MADE BY<br>S. R. RUSSO Mch |
| TITLE<br>MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE,<br>alias Marguerite Harrison; |                           | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>INTERNAL SECURITY.            |                                   |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:  
 Subject, adventuress, professional traveler, and author, reported Agent for U.S. MID immediately following World War; arrested as political spy in Moskow, 1921, imprisoned for ten months, at which time she confessed and offered her services, and provided list of the British and American spies then in Russia together with their connections with counter revolutionary organizations. Subject reportedly became agent for Soviet, responsible for arrest of compatriots. Subject later released through intervention of Hoover Relief Administration. Subject then traveled and wrote extensively, returning to Russia 1923 when she was again imprisoned for a period of three months. Upon return to United States, subject was publicly outspoken in praise of Soviet Union, expressing desire to return if permitted by U.S.S.R. Mail cover placed. Credit check reveals subject claims British citizenship, refusing details of travels and finances. Check at Registry of Voters negative. Morgue of "LOS ANGELES TIMES" Newspaper and indexes of Los Angeles Public Library checked. Subject's works noted.

Reference:

Letter from Bureau to Los Angeles 8-23-41; — 100-40298

|   |                         |                              |          |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br>B. R. Wood   | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |          |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>5-Bureau<br>2-San Diego<br>2-Washington Field<br>2-Los Angeles |                         | 100-40298-9                  | RECORDED |
| ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED<br>HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED<br>DATE 9-6-05 BY SP/RL/ma          |                         | NOV 28 1941                  | INDEXED  |

COPIES DESTROYED

Details:

This investigation is based upon receipt of reference letter from the Bureau, dated August 23, 1941, transmitting a memorandum concerning the subject. This memorandum reflects that the subject is mentioned in the 1940-41 Edition of "WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA" and the information contained in that publication regarding subject is set forth as follows:

"HARRISON, MARGUERITE, author; b. Baltimore, Md.; d. BERNARD N. and ELIZABETH ELTON (LIVEZEY) BAKER; ed. ST. TIMOTHY SCH., Catonsville, Md.; m. THOMAS BULLITT HARRISON, of Baltimore, 1902 (died 1915); m. 2d, ARTHUR M. BLAKE, 1926. Began as reporter on Baltimore Sun, 1916; newspaper corr. with A. E. F., in France, 1918; in Germany 8 mos., following Armistice, later in Poland and Russia; lectured in U. S., 1921-22 and winter, 1924-25; made motion picture entitled "GRASS" 1923-24. Club: Women's City (New York). Author: Marooned in Moscow, 1921; Unfinished Stories from Russian Prisons, 1923; Red Bear or Yellow Dragon, 1924; Asia Reborn, 1928; Go West--Go Wise, 1930; Saints Run mad, 1934."

This memorandum further contained an extract from "WIRELESS NEWS" of January 7, 1921, as received from the State Department; this extract characterized the subject as "A professional spy since May 1917, when she entered the service of the Department of Justice, Baltimore Section."

It is further reflected that the subject was transferred to the Military Intelligence and traveled extensively visiting England and Switzerland, Belgium, Germany, Lithuania, and Russia, in the guise of a newspaper correspondent. The subject arrived in Russian territory December 1919, and was arrested shortly thereafter in Moscow.

It was further reflected that "Realizing the seriousness of this situation and considering the evidence against her as a military and political spy, she confessed everything." Subject is further stated to have offered information in future service to the Soviet Government; to have provided them with a list of American and British spies then in Russia, together with their connections with counter-revolutionary organizations in that Country. She became an agent for the USSR and as such was responsible for the arrest of many of her compatriots. The information she gave was in some instances correct and in other instances was false.

This memorandum further reflects that the subject was interviewed by Special Agent JOHN J. STARR of the New York Field Division, in 1921, at which time she advised him she had been approached by MR. WALTER LIGGETT of Minnesota, who desired that she and Senator FRANCE of Maryland go on a tour for the Russian Red Cross, under the direction of DR. D. H. DUBROWSKY. She then offered her services in imparting any information which came to her attention during this tour. She further advised Agent STARR that she had been in close contact with the State Department, and that all of her activities since returning to the United States would be with the consent of the State Department.

On December 31, 1921, the subject spoke under the auspices of the American Committee for Russian Famine Relief, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during which address she spoke of the need for food, clothing and relief supplies in general in Russia. At this time she justified her imprisonment in Russia, stating that she was there without permission and had violated certain rules. She further stated that prisoners were well treated by the Russian Government, and she generally spoke in a lauditory manner of the USSR.

Again on January 1, 1922, she spoke saying that there were "no people on the face of the earth more deserving of our help and money than the Russian peasants were."

The memorandum further stated that a memorandum on file regarding SIDNEY HILLMAN, dated July 26, 1939, stated the subject was one of the members of the American Civil Liberties Union, who subscribed to stock in the Russian-American Industrial Corporation in 1922, which corporation claimed to have obtained a concession from the Bolshevik Government.

An Editorial appearing in the January 19, 1923 issue of the Washington Evening Star indicated subject was again a prisoner in Moscow and stated that "It is probable that she will again be expelled although under the Russian law she was liable to a severer penalty for reentering the Country after being turned out. Her travels in Mongolia, Manchuria and China at a critical time for the Soviets caused much suspicion among the authorities here who regarded MRS. HARRISON as a political agent."

A statement appearing in this memorandum advises that an article appearing in the March 24, 1923 Edition of the "NEW YORK EVENING TELEGRAM" described the subject as a magazine writer who was detained by the Soviet Government as an American spy for ten months after her first arrest in 1921 and again for three months during 1923. It was further stated that upon her return to this Country, subject made complimentary statements regarding the Soviet Government and stated that after all her experiences in Russia she wanted to go back if she was ever given permission.

On August 28, 1941, Reporting Agent contacted MR. FRED W. BEETSON, Executive Vice-President of the Association of Motion Picture Producers, 5504 Hollywood Blvd., telephone GLadstone 6111 who advised that the subject is married to ARTHUR BLAKE, free-lance character actor; that she was residing at 1329 North Hermosa Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

The records of the Retail Merchants Credit Association reflected that ARTHUR BLAKE was married to MARGUERITE E. BAKER who resided at Apartment 209, 5611 Carlton Way, Los Angeles. MR. BLAKE is described in this report as being 65 years of age (1939) and it was indicated that he had formerly resided in London and Paris. His occupation was given as free-lance actor and writer. The report further indicated that BLAKE and the subject claimed to be British subjects although they declined to give further details relative to their travels and finances, with the result that no credit record was established. It was noted that ARTHUR BLAKE banks at the Citizens Bank on Hollywood Blvd., and maintains a balance of between \$500. and \$1000.

On October 27, 1941, a mail cover was requested of the Los Angeles Post Office, but to date no reports have been forthcoming.

On October 30, 1941, Reporting Agent searched the files of the Morgue of the "LOS ANGELES TIMES" Newspaper, where an article appearing in a column entitled "THE LEE-SIDE" by LEE SHIPPEY reflected that the subject was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, was a society reporter on the Baltimore paper in 1915, which paper was then edited by FRANK KENT. During the war the State of Baltimore sent the subject to France to display motion pictures of Maryland to the Maryland Troops in France, thus bringing to them pictures of their homes, families and loved ones. This article further indicated that the subject spoke German fluently and "she also has made herself valuable to the Intelligence Department." This article reflected that the subject was sent to Germany and Russia to make confidential reports on conditions existing there. It is stated that it took the subject weeks to get to Moskow, and in order to do so she had to go to the border and make friends with the Red Army Outposts there. This article states that she marched with them (Red Army) and saw what they did and how it was affecting the people. The article stated she finally reached Moskow where she was a newspaper correspondent for six months sending out radiograms which for a time were the only press releases coming out of Moskow. At this time she was also sending out confidential reports, was caught and was imprisoned. Subject characterized her imprisonment by stating "it was a most interesting experience for most of the best people of Russia were there." She stayed in prison a year until the Hoover Relief Administration secured her release, according to this article. This article further reflected that she came home and wrote "MAROONED IN MOSKOW" which was published in 1922. She then went to Angora with MARION COOPER and secured data for "GRASS", so-called "motion picture classic," which was produced in 1925. This article then described her travels as carrying her

into the far East, namely Japan, China and Manchuria, and stated that she went wherever things were most exciting and ultimately saw the end of Imperial Russia in Vladivostok when the last White Russians "hauled down their flag." Subject then returned to Russia and was soon arrested again. She spent three more months in a Russian prison finally emerging and returning to America and writing another book entitled "RED BEAR OR YELLOW DRAGON." In short, this article described subject's life as one so filled with adventure that RICHARD HALIBURTON might well stand aside.

On October 30, 1941, Reporting Agent checked subject's name through the records on file at the Registry of Voters, with negative results, from which it is concluded that the subject has not voted or affiliated herself with any political party.

On October 30, 1941, Reporting Agent searched subject's name through the indexes on file at the Los Angeles Public Library, where it was ascertained the subject has written the following books:

ASIA REBORN - New York and London, Harper Bros., 1928;  
TRANSLATION FROM GERMAN of THE DISSOLUTE YEARS, BY EDUARD STUCKEN;  
MAROONED IN MOSKOW - George H. Doran Company, New York, 1921;  
RED BEAR OR YELLOW DRAGON - George H. Doran Co., New York, 1924;  
THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW - Harper & Rhinehard, 1935;  
GO WEST - GO WISE - Harper & Rhinehard, New York City;

Reporting Agent thumbed through the book entitled "THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW" which is characterized as follows: "The Story of a Checkered Life." This volume reflects that the subject was born at Baltimore, Maryland, the daughter of a prominent Baltimore family, named ELTON. It was further reflected that during and after the World War, subject reported to Colonel VAN DIEMAN, Chief of Intelligence of the AEF.

On August 28, 1941, Reporting Agent contacted Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] who provided substantially the same information as the foregoing; and upon a recontact of said informant on October 30, 1941, informant advised that he would continue investigation of his files and records relative to subject.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADSTHE SAN DIEGO FIELD DIVISIONAt San Diego, California

Will interview General ~~Van~~ Dieman, Chief of Intelligence of the AEF, who has already been confidentially advised concerning the background of the subject, with a view toward developing any information he may have relative to subversive activities or tendencies on the part of subject.

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISIONAt Washington, D. C.

Will check with the State Department and obtain full information relative to the subject's passport record and travels.

Will check subsequent citizenship standing.

Will recheck the files of the State Department for more up-to-date and current information concerning the subject.

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISIONAt Los Angeles, California

Will maintain contact with Confidential National Defense Informant

Will report results of the mail cover in the instant case.

Will conduct discreet neighborhood investigation in the vicinity of 5611 Carlton Way.

Will monitor subject's bank account.

Will continue investigation along established lines.

JKM: BK

RECORDED

100-40298 - 9

December 12, 1941

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. R. B. Hood  
Special Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
900 Security Building  
Los Angeles, California

Re: MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE  
alias Marguerite Harrison  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

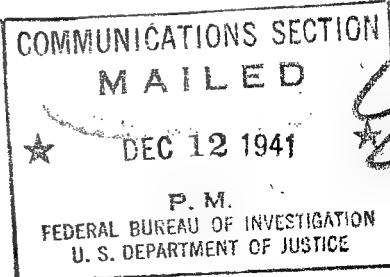
I sent you a letter under date of November 26, 1941 designated as "Personal", advising that I desired compliance with my repeated requests in this case without further delay.

I desire an immediate explanation from you personally for your failure to comply with that letter. I will not accept the circumstances which have arisen since December 7, 1941 as an excuse since you obviously had more than enough time to have handled the matter prior to then.

# 250754  
Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



D. H.

J. M.

JKM: BK

RECORDED 100-40298 - 9

November 10, 1941

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

Re: MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE,  
alias MARGUERITE HARRISON;  
Internal Security - C

Dear Sir:

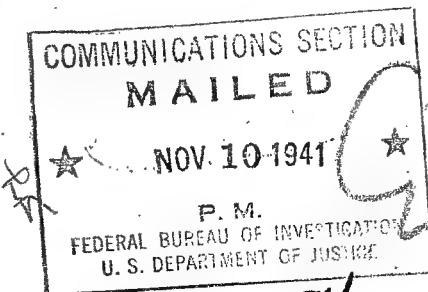
Please refer to my letters dated September 9, 1941 and October 18, 1941 and my wire dated November 3, 1941 in the captioned matter. I have the report of Special Agent S. R. Russo dated November 4, 1941, which is presumably supposed to be in answer to the aforementioned communications.

I do not consider this report compliance with my request. It is merely a rehash of the information I furnished you in the summary memorandum transmitted with my letter of September 9, 1941, with the addition of the results of the check of some record sources. Your five page report could have been reduced to one page had you not summarized the material furnished you by the Bureau which obviously the Bureau already had, thus saving the time of the stenographer. Had the Agent spent the time it took him to summarize the memorandum and dictate from it, he might have accomplished some worthwhile investigative results.

As stated hereinbefore, I will not accept the reference report as compliance with my instructions in this case, and accordingly, I want you to go over it with the Agent, have some actual investigation performed, and a report prepared and submitted to the Bureau not later than ten days from the date you receive this letter of instructions.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



250754  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-5-85 BY 5104/DR2/mag

RECORDED

EX-16

100-40298-10

JKM:BK

100-40298

November 26, 1941

PERSONAL

Special Agent in Charge  
Los Angeles, California

Re: MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE,  
alias Marguerite Harrison;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated November 17, 1941, which refers to my letter of November 10, 1941.

Your communication offers no acceptable reason for your failure to comply with my instructions. If the agent originally assigned to this case is not available to handle it, reassign it immediately and submit the desired information.

Please understand that I desire compliance with my repeated requests without further delay.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nondoo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

F

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| COMMUNICATIONS SECTION          |  |
| M A I L E D                     |  |
| NOV 27 1941                     |  |
| 6 JAN 10 1942                   |  |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |  |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE     |  |

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Los Angeles, California  
November 17, 1941

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Middle .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Hendon .....  
Mr. Holloman .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Miss Gandy .....  
Files .....

Dear Sir:

Re: MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE,  
alias Marguerite Harrison;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference is made to your letter of November 10, 1941 (100-40298) directing that a report in the above captioned matter be submitted not later than ten days from the date of receipt thereof.

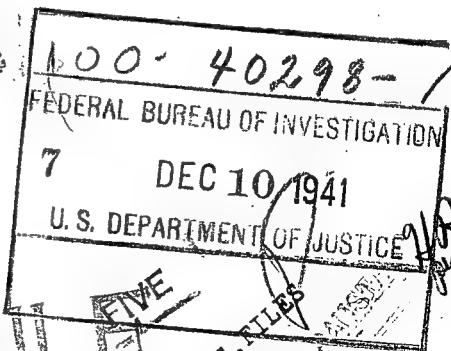
Please be advised that the agent to whom this case is assigned is presently engaged upon a full time surveillance. The report will be submitted to you as expeditiously as possible under present existing circumstances.

Very truly yours,

*R. B. Hood*  
R. B. HOOD  
Special Agent in Charge

SRR:EEG  
62-2163

RECORDED  
COPIES DESTROYED 9-10-58  
R-230



*100-40298-10*  
11-26-41  
COPY IN FILE

EX-16



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

October 22, 1941

CHC:LL

100-40298

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: MARGUERITE HARRISON, alias  
Mrs. Arthur M. Blake  
INTERNAL SECURITY - R, CP

You requested me to ascertain why the Los Angeles office was not followed up with regard to this matter since August 23, 1941, it being recalled that by letter of that date the Los Angeles office was asked for an explanation as to why it had not previously furnished information to the Bureau concerning Marguerite Harrison's activities, being also requested to institute immediately an investigation with regard to this woman and her activities.

The Files Section was completely in error in advising you that the letter from the Bureau to Los Angeles dated August 23, 1941, was the latest serial in this file, inasmuch as the Los Angeles office, by letter dated August 28, 1941, replied, the reply being attached.

The Bureau, by letter dated September 9, 1941, to the San Diego office, with copies indicated for the Los Angeles office, furnished background information concerning this matter to the San Diego office and requested a contact with General Van Deman as to what, if any, information might be available concerning the background and activities of Marguerite Harrison.

No further information has been received from either the Los Angeles or the San Diego divisions, and the Bureau, by letter dated October 18, 1941, to the San Diego office, with copies to Los Angeles, a copy of which is attached, inquired as to the status of this investigation in those offices.

We will continue to follow this matter up very closely.

Respectfully,  
RECORDED

D. M. Ladd

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
OCT 24 1941  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

6 DEC 31 1941

Attachments

6 DEC 31 1941

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Foxworth \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Drayton \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JAN 13 1942  
261

100-40298-12

Cancelled

✓

Papers received and cancelled.  
Please file.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 62-2163

|  |                            |  |                                      |
|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA                                    | DATE WHEN MADE<br>12/13/41 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>11/20, 25, 28,<br>12/1/41 | REPORT MADE BY<br>K. A. VOSBURGH GLB |
| TITLE<br>MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE,<br>alias Marguerite Harrison |                            | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>INTERNAL SECURITY             |                                      |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject asserted strongly pro-British in public statements of past 1-1/2 years. European trip, summer 1939 to dictator states noted; subsequent trip throughout Canada in 1940, allegedly to "collect material", supposedly for books and lectures. No evidence subject in position to commit subversive acts or acting as enemy agent. Investigation to be continued.

- P -

REFERENCE: Bureau Letter dated 8/23/41.  
Report of Special Agent S. R. RUSSO, Los Angeles, 11/4/41.  
Bureau Letter dated 11/10/41.

DETAILS:

Mrs. R. GARDENER, Apartment house manager, 5611 Carlton Way, Los Angeles, advised the writer that she was well acquainted with the Subject, due to the fact that the Subject had lived at this apartment house for a period of five years, 1934 to 1939. DEC 13 5086W.11

Mrs. GARDENER qualified her comment by stating that she did not consider herself a personal friend of the Subject, but as a matter of business practice did not become involved with any occupant of her house, and at the

|   |                            |  |          |
|---|----------------------------|--|----------|
| APPROVED AND<br>FORWARDED<br>R. B. Howell                                     | SPECIAL AGENT<br>IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES<br>100-40298-13 | RECORDED |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT   |                            | INDEXED                                      |          |
| ⑤ Bureau<br>2 San Diego<br>2 Washington Field<br>2 Baltimore<br>3 Los Angeles | DEC 18 1941                |  |          |

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P-230

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

2034

same time, felt it her duty to be pleasant to everyone there. She did state that she had been particularly interested in the Subject, whom she had observed with great curiosity for a number of years because of her striking characteristics and personality, and so felt that she knew her extremely well.

Mrs. GARDENER continued by stating that the Subject and her husband, the onetime film actor, ~~ARTHUR BLAKE~~, with a small dog, occupied apartment 209 for a five-year period, and that during this time their sole support consisted of two days work which Mr. BLAKE had as a film actor and a subsequent two weeks period as a stock actor in the Pasadena Play House, and the Subject's earnings as a professional lecturer and author. The Informant recalled that Mr. BLAKE was the recipient, during this time, of a pension which she believed arose through a quasi participation in the Spanish American War. Her recollection was that this pension was about \$70 to \$72 dollars a month and she remembered having taken some of the checks in payment of the rent.

The Informant described these people as living very meagerly on the combined income of the pension and the Subject's earnings as a lecturer and author. She stated, however, that they lived with some show of dignity and seemed to enjoy pleasant enough and respectable enough friends. She could not recall offhand who had gone to the apartment to visit the Subject with the exception of ~~BASIL BATHBONE~~, ~~ROBERT PAYLOH~~, and ~~GUY STANDISH~~. The Informant at this point observed that she did not recall any well known (to her) Communists of the film colony calling on the Subject.

The Informant observed that the Subject was a woman about 55 years old when she was staying in her apartment. She described her as being of striking appearance, having an erect carriage, a well modulated and strong speaking voice, a vivacious manner, and a distinguished appearance with her grey hair and thin features. The Informant continued by saying that she had heard the Subject lecture several times and discuss her writings and travels; that the Subject made an unusually good impression on a critical audience because of her better than average ability as a platform speaker. The Informant observed that in the five year period, during which the BLAKES stayed in the apartment, that she knew the Subject to treat her husband, ARTHUR BLAKE, with contempt and cruelty. The Informant described this by commenting that BLAKE himself was inclined to be a bit fatuous and commonplace, and his wife was so keen intellectually that she often made him the butt of sarcasm and vitreous tirades. The Informant stated that at one time during the five year period, when the Subject's dog became involved with that of a neighbor, a lady about eighty years old, the Subject had reached out and separated the animals in a "perfect fury" and had struck the old lady, knocking her to the ground. The Informant continued her observations by stating that Mrs. BLAKE was a woman who she felt was much above the average in intelligence and one who was also unscrupulous and unethical. She recalled the Subject as having one day slammed the door in a visitor's face, stating that she had observed enough of the visitor's arrival to realize that the Subject did not know who she was and hearing that the visitor allegedly wanted to ask the Subject some question or other about a lecture; that the Subject slammed the door in the visitor's face, stating that she could not be troubled

with every Tom, Dick, and Harry cluttering up her apartment and asking foolish questions.

It is observed by the writer that the Informant appeared to be perfectly dispassionate in her comments about the Subject. She did not appear to have had any trouble with the Subject as a tenant, nor did she appear to be venting any spite at the Subject's expense.

The Informant impressed the Agent as being a woman of rather acute observation and a person with a good standard of conduct and manners. The Informant frankly stated that she disliked the Subject, for she considered her to be unscrupulous and unethical and had felt for months that the Subject had been involved in something of a subversive character and Informant commented that she had recently discussed with her husband, who was of the same opinion as herself, the advisability of calling the Bureau and asking that the Subject be investigated, but hesitated to do this since she, the Informant, realized that she had no concrete facts that would serve as evidence and hesitated to make a complaint which the Bureau might feel was based on "womanly intuition".

The Informant stated that on May 3, 1939, the Subject and her husband left for Europe and returned to this country and to the apartment on November 15, 1939.

The Informant stated that she had never been in any disagreement with the Subject at any time, the latter appearing to sense some instinctive antagonism, sometimes would appear to justify her actions by speaking rather more freely about her goings and comings than she did to anyone else in the house. The Informant said that she was surprised that these people would be going to Europe, knowing how obviously pressed in a financial way they had been for so many years, and she recalled that the Subject told her that the trip was to "gather material" for a new book and to sell off some of the furnishings of the Subject's home in France. It is not clear whether this chateau in France was the property of the Subject or of her husband, but it would appear that one of them owned a dwelling near Tours, France.

The Informant advised that the Subject stated, upon her return, that she had sold off all of the furnishings of this house, incidental to their trip to Europe.

The Subject had described the itinerary of this trip as going through Germany, France, Spain, Italy, and Czechoslovakia. Upon discreet questioning by the Informant, the Subject admitted that, despite the fact that her husband was an Englishman, and an English Citizen, that they had not visited the British Isles, but spent most of their time on the Continent, principally in the dictator states.

The Informant had some knowledge of the Subject's early background, having read her biography. She stated that for years these people had owned an old Plymouth car that was constantly in disrepair, but that suddenly, upon

their decision to go to Europe, got a much better car and even took it with them on their trip to Europe, which together with the itinerary of the trip, was a very suspicious circumstance.

The Informant commented that the Subject returned to the United States just before the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, and that upon their return, these people appeared to be rather more affluent than at any other time they had been in the house. She commented upon the fact that the Subject had brought back with her two or three Swiss clocks and other articles of value. The Informant stated that the Subject's scale of living also generally appeared to go up and that these people entertained more and lived better. She stated that they were in the house, however, only a couple of weeks after their return from their trip to Europe when they took another apartment.

The Informant was particularly struck with the effort the Subject made, in talking to her about this European trip, to impress the Informant about her personal political beliefs. The Informant commented that the Subject was a staunch supporter of Great Britain and the British foreign policy, and went out of her way to talk with her about it and seemed to be trying to impress upon the Informant that this trip actually fortified her in her English sympathies. It was the Informant's comment that she had never mentioned the itinerary of the Subject's trip one way or another, but in spite of that the Subject went "all out" to try to convince her of her English and American sympathies upon her return from abroad. The Informant could not understand why, after having lived with this woman for five years and never having been exposed to a deluge of this sort, she should resort to it under these circumstances.

Mr. R. GARDENER, who was present during part of the interview, concurred with all that his wife said, and appeared to agree with her opinions and beliefs.

In view of the Bureau's desire that investigation be conducted in a most discreet manner, it was not deemed advisable to contact any of the other persons on the premises, who were stated by Mrs. GARDENER to be more or less friendly with the Subject and her husband.

It was learned that the Subject's literary agent was one ~~MAE MORTON~~ of Hollywood, California, but Mrs. GARDENER stressed the fact that Mrs. MORTON was well known as being unable to respect a confidential inquiry. Accordingly the Agent did not contact her.

Mrs. ~~C. SOLAMON~~, 1317 North Formosa Avenue, Los Angeles, confirmed the fact that the Subject and her husband had resided at 1329 North Formosa Avenue since November of 1939. She stated that the Subject paid \$60 a month rent for a very small apartment, and she early admitted that she was very friendly with the Subject and her husband and considered them charming and thoroughly American people. Mrs. SOLAMON observed that Mr. BLAKE had not been employed in any sense during the time he was there. She did know, however, that he received a pension and she stated that she believed it was \$60 or \$70 a month. She stated that these people lived in a quiet, refined

and pleasant life; that Mrs. BLAKE made their combined living with the exception of the pension, by lecturing and by writing books. She stated that she had been to some of the Subject's lectures. She could not recall offhand what visitors these people had, but finally, appreciating the character of the interview, she volunteered to keep track of the Subject's visitors insofar as she was able, and expressed her readiness to talk with an Agent at any time in the future. Mrs. SOLAMON commented that the Subject and her husband had taken a trip through Canada, which she recalled went practically the breadth of Canada, going from the westcoast, through the principal cities, Ottawa, Montreal, and Quebec, and returning by the United States. She stated that on this trip Mr. BLAKE did all of the driving and that these people had had an accident in which BLAKE was seriously injured, but that he was presently recovered from this injury. Mrs. SOLAMON observed that both BLAKE and his wife played bridge and she believed they played for rather good stakes and were rather clever at cards, particularly when they played together.

*Margaret Blake*  
It was noted that this same observation was made by Mrs. GARDENER, who was of the opinion that they sometimes eked out their meagre income by their card skill, although both ladies were quick to observe that BLAKE and his wife were not card sharps in any sense of the word, but simply "always played together".

It is noted that a Colonel ~~HOLLIDAY~~ (phonetic) reputed to have been a longtime friend of Mrs. BLAKE, was wont to call upon her both when she lived in the previous apartment and while she has been staying at her present location. This man was described by Mrs. GARDENER as a staunch American, a member of the A.E.F. and the Army of Occupation in France, and presently retired from the Army to a farm somewhere in Maryland. Although conceded an admirer of Mrs. BLAKE, this man was stated by Mrs. GARDENER to have become "thoroughly disgusted with MARGARET since her return from that trip to Europe." Mrs. GARDENER believes that the Colonel referred to the Subject's pronounced English views, but stated she would not make any comment at all, being only slightly acquainted with HOLLIDAY.

Mr. L. G. ~~HALLIDAY~~, British Vice Consul, Los Angeles, California, advised that he was socially acquainted with Mrs. BLAKE and in fact had recently heard her speak to the British United Service Organization upon invitation. HALLIDAY stated that this woman was not connected with the Consulate in any way, nor was she an Agent for the British Government in any sense, but he freely conceded that her outspoken statements in favor of England and American intervention in the present war were not distasteful to the Consulate.

HALLIDAY recalled the BLAKES having gone to Europe in 1939, and vaguely recalled their having taken a trip to Canada, but was unable to confirm these facts by a review of the available records.

Vice Consul ~~BLOODSMYTHE~~, 3708 Carolina Avenue, San Pedro, California, advised that he was personally acquainted with the Subject and her husband and had known them for a period of several years. He stated that when he had been attached to the local consulate that he often served as a witness for ARTHUR BLAKE in some trust fund or other having to do with BLAKE's mother's estate.

As he recalled, the English law required the administrator of the estate, insofar as any payments to the beneficiary are concerned, to have them attested to by two witnesses and he volunteered to serve as one. He stated that he, personally, liked BLAKE although he was "not too heavy", which the writer understood to mean that the Consul liked BLAKE personally but did not consider him too bright. However, the Consul continued by observing that he did not care for BLAKE's wife and questioned somewhat her ethics without having any concrete facts to justify his feelings. BLOODSMYTHE recalled the European venture that these people made in 1939 and stated that he was quite sure that BLAKE had come to the consulate to have his wife's name put on BLAKE's English passport on the theory that it would make their travel in Europe easier. It was noted that BLOODSMYTHE is going to verify this recollection by checking the official records. In connection with this, BLOODSMYTHE was positive that Mrs. BLAKE went several times to the German Consulate in regard to the projected trip, and he stated that he was a bit surprised to learn that it had been necessary for her to go so many times, and that apparently when the Subject went to the Consulate, she stayed an hour or two talking to the Consul, FRITZ WEIDEMANN. It is believed that this information regarding the German Consulate contact was divulged by the Subject's husband to BLOODSMYTHE, for, in connection with this statement, BLOODSMYTHE observed, "Whatever this woman may be mixed-up in, I am quite certain that ARTHUR knows nothing about it and has nothing to do with it because she doesn't confide in him."

The Informant also recalled the Canadian venture and expressed the opinion that these people were not in the employ of the English Government in any capacity.

The account of ARTHUR M. BLAKE and MARGUERITE BLAKE at the Citizens Bank, Hollywood and Bronson Avenue, Los Angeles, California, was ascertained by Special Agent E. P. HAIR of this office. This account was monitored for the period of October 27, 1941 to November 24, 1941. This account was divided into two accounts: one was a regular account which would appear to take care of household expenses, insurance, obligations, and the like, and which reflected a balance of \$523.02 on November 24, 1941, with a notation to the effect that the \$500 in this balance reflects a loan from the bank as of November 5, 1941; the other was a special account, which, on October 25, 1941 had a balance of \$169.64 and on November 24, 1941 had a balance of \$81.09. This special account would appear to reflect the bridge playing activities of the Subject and her husband, inasmuch as the majority of the checks on this account were made out to one NICKARDEN, 7083 Hawthorne Street, Los Angeles, who is engaged at that location in the business of giving bridge instruction and who appears to be also running a bridge club.

Mr. E. J. BRADY, Manager of the Citizens Bank, Hollywood and Bronson Avenue, Los Angeles, observed to Special Agent A. T. HEALY that the Subject's husband receives a monthly check from the Veterans Administration Facility, Washington, D.C., of \$50 to \$55. It is believed that this informa-

tion from the bank manager reflects the pension that other informants have described. An examination of the bank account was negative.

Contact with Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] for any information as to the Subject's possible Communistic activities, was negative, as his records reflected nothing concerning this.

It is noted that a mail cover has been placed, and the results will be promptly summarized at the conclusion of the period.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SAN DIEGO FIELD DIVISION

- \* AT SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, will interview General Van Dieman, Chief of Intelligence of the AEF, who has already been confidentially advised concerning the background of the Subject, with a view toward developing any information he may have relative to subversive activities or tendencies on the part of the Subject.

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

- \* AT WASHINGTON, D.C., will check with the State Department and obtain full information relative to the Subject's passport record and travels.
- \* Will check subsequent citizenship standing.
- \* Will recheck the files of the State Department for more up-to-date and current information concerning the Subject.

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

- \* AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, will report results of the mail cover in the instant case.
  - Will report Vice Consul HALLIDAY's information regarding the passport data of Subject and her husband, and concerning the imposing of Subject's name on her husband's passport.
  - Will await the development of the San Diego and Washington Field Divisions leads and the conclusion of the mail cover, to indicate the future handling of this case, having in mind that the Bureau has requested a most discreet investigation.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT Los Angeles, California

FILE NO. 100-6794

|  |                          |  |                                       |
|--|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>Washington, D. C.  | DATE WHEN MADE<br>1/5/42 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>11-29; 12-31<br>17/19/27-41 | REPORT MADE BY<br>J. HAL COWAN JHC:KL |
| TITLE<br>MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE,<br>alias Marguerite Harrison |                          | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>INTERNAL SECURITY               |                                       |

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Only information found in State Department files relating to subject reflects passport issued to her June 22, 1925 for travel to all countries as an author; that she was born October 23, 1887 at Baltimore, Maryland and had lived in European countries intermittently from 1918 to 1922 and in the near East in 1923.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent S. R. RUSSO dated at Los Angeles, California November 4, 1941; report of Special Agent K. A. YOSBURGH dated at Los Angeles, California December 13, 1941.

**DETAILS:**

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

At the State Department, confidential informant S-5 advised that repeated searches had been made of the State Department general files and the files of the Passport Division for any record pertaining to subject under the variations in her name, but that the only information contained in the State Department files pertained to an application for passport made at New York City, New York on June 19, 1925 in the name of MARGUERITE E. HARRISON, wherein the following information was set forth:

|  |                                       |   |                          |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br><i>S. T. McKeon</i>                         | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE<br><i>SAK</i> | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES<br><i>100-10228-14</i> | SEARCHED<br><i>re</i>    |
| COPIES DESTROYED<br><i>9-15-58</i>                                     | COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br><i>R-230</i> | RECORDED<br><i>100-10228-14</i>                     | INDEXED EX<br><i>dat</i> |
| 5-Bureau<br>2-Los Angeles<br>2-Washington Field<br><i>2 JAN 2 1942</i> | JAN 5 1942                            |   |                          |
| COPY IN FILE   |                                       |   |                          |

Subject stated in the application that she was born on October 23, 1887 at Baltimore, Maryland, that her permanent residence in the United States was 46 West 52nd Street, New York City and that she had lived in European countries intermittently from 1918 to 1922 and in the near East in 1923. She further stated that her occupation was that of author and that previous passport had been issued to her on July 20, 1923. The passport was desired for travel in all countries, intending to leave the United States on July 15, 1925 from the port of New York, the name of the ship not being given. On this application passport No. 8836 was issued June 22, 1925.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

CCM/pk

February 25, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

RE: MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER ~~BLAKE~~  
INTERNAL SECURITY.

The following is in accordance with your request that a memorandum reflecting the status of this case be submitted:

In August of 1941 a memorandum containing a summary of the information in the Bureau's files regarding the subject was made available to the Los Angeles Office with the request that a discreet investigation be conducted and that the Bureau be advised immediately in the premises. On August 28, 1941 the Los Angeles Office in letter form advised that the name of the subject had never appeared in any Communist Party publications or leaflets in Southern California as having been connected with the Communist Party. Further, that she is not known to have been active in the Communist Party according to any of the informants of that office. The Los Angeles Office at that time advised that it had determined that a Marguerite Harrison, 1329 North Formosa Avenue, Hollywood, California was possibly identical with the subject. This individual was reported as being the wife of a moving picture actor named Arthur M. Blake. This office informed also that in April, 1936 there was a Margaret Harrison in San Francisco, California, connected with the "Humanist Society of Friends"; further, that this Margaret Harrison was a observer at the convention of the California State Conference Against War and Fascism in 1936 at San Francisco; that the same person in 1938 was connected with the Peoples' World Sustaining Fund of Alameda, California; that she was mentioned in the Peoples' World issue of December 22, 1938 and that she was mentioned again in the Peoples' World of January 25, 1939 as having collected money in connection with the Peoples' World Sustaining Drive at Oakland, California. The Los Angeles Office informed that it was not known whether she is identical with the subject of the instant matter.

SEARCHED

&

INDEXED

In September, 1941, the San Diego Office was requested to contact General Van Deman for possible information concerning the subject. This was done in view of the fact that it was believed that she was, during the first World War, connected with the Military Intelligence over which service General Van Deman had charge at that time.

9 MAR 5 1942

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Tour Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Beahm \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

**COPY IN FILE**

EX-18

100-40298-15

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| SEARCHED                    | INDEXED |
| SERIALIZED                  | FILED   |
| FEB 25 1942                 |         |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE |         |

Memorandum for Mr. E. A. Tamm

Page 2

General Van Deman advised that he first met the subject at the Peace Conference in Paris following the Armistice. He stated that she was at that time one of the accredited correspondents from the United States. General Van Deman informed that the subject had voluntarily offered her services to him and that he had instructed her to pay particular attention to some of the correspondents of whom she was somewhat doubtful. He stated that the subject by some coincidence happened to be in his office when he was discussing the desirability of having someone go to Berlin and that she immediately offered to perform the duties necessitating this trip. He stated that she was thereupon sent to Berlin and that she was very successful in completing the work requested of her.

General Van Deman stated that a short time thereafter the subject advised him of her desire to go to Russia and that although he strongly recommended against her going she made it quite clear that she was going anyway and that that being the case the Military Intelligence Division would and did arrange for her entrance into Russia. He stated that following her entrance into Russia she would make reports to the Military Intelligence Division directly in Washington. General Van Deman stated that he has not seen or heard from the subject directly since that time although he knows she has appeared in San Diego on several occasions and talked before civic groups.

General Van Deman in commenting on the information contained in the Bureau's memorandum which was confidentially made available to him stated that he doubted very much that the subject ever furnished information to Russian authorities regarding her compatriots in Russia which led to their arrest.

The Los Angeles Office has developed that the subject resided in an apartment house at 5611 Carlton Way, Los Angeles, California with her husband, Arthur Blake for a period of five years from 1934 to 1939. It has been determined that during this time the subject and her husband's sole income consisted of that derived from a little acting that the husband does plus a small pension, and the subject's earnings as a professional lecturer and author. It has been determined that although the subject and her husband live meagerly on their combined incomes, they still live with some show of dignity and seem to enjoy respectable friends. Basil Rathbone, Robert Taylor and Guy Standish are reported among those frequenting the subject's apartment. However, it has not been determined that her apartment is frequented by any well-known Communists of the film colony.

In May, 1939, the Subject and her husband are reported to have left for Europe and returned to this country in November of 1939. This trip was reportedly for the purpose of gathering material for a new book and to sell some of the furnishings of the Subject's home in Tours, France. It is stated that the itinerary of this trip included visits to Germany, France, Spain, Italy and Czechoslovakia. It is reported that prior to Subject's leaving for Europe she disposed of a rather dilapidated automobile and purchased a much better car which she and her husband took on the trip. It is stated that upon the Subject's and her husband's return from Europe they generally lived better and entertained more often. Upon the subject's return from the above mentioned trip she is reported to have been a staunch supporter of Great Britain and British foreign policy and made the statement to the apartment house manager where she resided that the trip had actually fortified her in her English sympathies. Subject at the present time is residing in an Apartment house at 1329 North Formosa Avenue, Hollywood, California.

Mrs. C. Solomon of 1317 North Formosa Avenue, Hollywood, California, has informed that she is friendly with the subject and her husband and considers them to be thoroughly American in every respect. She substantiated the above relevant information concerning the fact that the subject and her husband are living on their combined incomes obtained from his pension and her lecturing and writing of books.

Mr. L. G. Halliday, the British Vice Consul of Los Angeles, California, has advised that he is socially acquainted with the Subject but that the subject was not connected with the British Consulate in any way nor was she an agent of the British government in any sense. He stated, however, that the subject's outspoken statements in favor of English and American intervention into the present war were not at all distasteful to the Consulate.

British Vice Consul Bloodsmythe at San Pedro, California has advised that he is personally acquainted with the subject and her husband having known them for a period of several years. He informed that during the time that he was attached to the local Consulate he had often served as a witness for Arthur Blake in a trust fund which was set up in connection with Blake's mother's estate in England. Bloodsmythe stated that he did not particularly care for the subject and recalled the subject and her husband's European venture in 1939. He stated that he was quite sure that

Blake had come into the Consulate to have his wife's name put on his English passport on the theory that it would make travelling in Europe easier. He stated that he was positive that Mrs. Blake also had gone several times to the German Consulate in regard to the above mentioned trip.

A check of the subject's bank account reflects the same to have been divided into two separate accounts: one account which appears to take care of household expenditures, etc., which reflected a balance of \$523 in November of 1941; the other appears to be a special or personal account which reflected a balance of \$81.09 in November of 1941. It was also determined that the subject's husband receives a monthly check from the Veterans Administration Facility, Washington, D. C., in the amount of \$50 to \$55.

The subject is reported to be a woman of approximately 55 years of age and to have a striking appearance and vivacious manner. She is stated to have a distinguished appearance with her erect carriage, gray hair and refined features. She is alleged to have a well modulated but strong speaking voice and to make an unusually good impression upon her audiences. As a speaker she is better than average.

This investigation is being continued and as pertinent information is received, the same will be made available to you.

Respectfully,

  
D. M. Ladd

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 62-2163

|  |                          |   |                                   |
|--|--------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA                                    | DATE WHEN MADE<br>4/6/42 | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br>1/14, 2/19, 3/1,<br>5/42 | REPORT MADE BY<br>D. W. MAGEE GLB |
| TITLE<br>MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER-BLAKE,<br>alias Marguerite Harrison |                          | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>INTERNAL SECURITY            |                                   |

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Records reflect that subject was born at Baltimore, Maryland, 10/23/90 and that her husband was born at London, England, 11/28/70. They formerly owned property in France. Subject has been speaking in behalf of the DAUGHTERS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE. As of 3/5/42, subject spoke at the Women's Athletic Club, Los Angeles, on situations surrounding the war, in Ceylon, Portugal, Burma and other world points. She urged her audience to watch the newly organized "SWORD OF THE SPIRIT" a Christian crusade under the leadership of Arch-Bishop HENNELEY, which she stated had received the blessings of the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury. She informed her audience that Communists are anti-British in India, while in America they are unitedly, whole-heartedly behind Britain. Subject's husband was at one time acting British Consul at Tours, France, in 1930.

-P-

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent K. A. VOSBURGH, Los Angeles, 12/13/41.  
Bureau letter, 12/12/41 (100-40298).  
Report of Special Agent J. HAL COWAN, Washington, D. C., 1/5/42.

|   |                            |                                     |                              |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| APPROVED AND<br>FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>   | SPECIAL AGENT<br>IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES        |                              |
| COPIES DESTROYED<br>COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>5 - Bureau<br>1 - San Diego (Inf.)<br>1 - San Francisco (Inf.)<br>1 - Washington Field (Inf.)<br>2 - Los Angeles | 9-10-58<br>12-230          | 100-40298-16<br>APR 13 1942<br>FIVE | RECORDED<br>INDEXED<br>FILED |

**COPY IN FILE APR 17 1942**

## DETAILS:

Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] advised the Reporting Agent that on his discreet inquiries concerning the subject, he had ascertained that as of recent months, she has been making speeches at the Women's Athletic Club, Los Angeles on the first Thursday of each month at 11:00 A.M., and on the third Thursday of each month, in the evenings. The Informant advised that he has learned that at these meetings or speeches, she praises the Soviet system and is reported on occasions to have reported to her audiences that this subject matter is satisfactory to the Washington, D. C. Administration.

Arrangements were made through Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] to have a meeting or speech of the subject covered at the Women's Athletic Club, Los Angeles.

On the morning of March 5, 1942, Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] covered a lecture of the subject, who used the name, Mrs. MARGUERITE HARRISON-BLAKE. This lecture convened at 11:00 A.M. at the Women's Athletic Club, in the Green Room at 833 South Flower Street, Los Angeles. Admission was by invitation and purchase of ticket for \$1.10 each. About twenty-five women and two men were present.

[redacted] submitted a memorandum which the Informant prepared on this lecture, which is as follows:

"MARGUERITE HARRISON felt that Ceylon (which she explained has considerable British fortifications) would probably go as Java is going; that Portuguese Goa (?) on the West Coast of India, which has little if any resistance and Portugal is supposedly neutral still, would be occupied prior to, during or very soon after Ceylon goes, by the Axis powers, as that is only about 2,000 miles flying distance from them; that Portuguese Goa would be helpful to the Axis as a landing place, as would the French Vichy controlled territory near Madras on the East Coast of India, which will also play an important role when the seige of Ceylon begins. She commented that the British highway from Kerchewan (?) (North West port of India) to Teheran, etc. will be as easy for the Axis powers to come down as it is for the British troops and their allies to deliver supplies to Russia over now.

"She emphasized the gravity of the loss in the fall of Burma from the allied viewpoint, as Burma is in Japanese hands and China is now cut off from oil supply, as China has no oil developed in her own territory, and with the loss of Burma and the eventual loss of the Dutch East Indies, it will be very difficult if not impossible to get oil to China. Further, India is also dependent on outside oil shipments, she stated. Burma is a Buddhist nation and only recently acquired her independence, and they have also been made very conscious of their racial background (yellow - originally Mongol) by the Japanese propagandists, she stated, and the Burmese are very conscious they are not of the brown Indian race from whom their independence was won; further they have been aroused to feel very bitterly anti-British and anti-Caucasian, generally.

"She seemed to recognize that the Nazis may run into some snags in trying to reach neutral Portuguese Gao and other points in India, if the British succeed in holding the Moslems on the side of the allied powers. She told of the heavy percentage of Moslems in the populations of French Morocco, Egypt and North Africa generally, Ethiopia, Palestine, Persia, Afghanistan and other Near East countries (some of whose leaders she charged had been subsidized and their influence acquired by the British by very "devious" means), and also mentioned the large numbers of Moslems in India, Japan, Southern Russia and Turkey. The Moslems, while disagreeing on many things among themselves, have a common cause as a whole and wherever they are, whether or not they are in good standing as Moslems. This Mohammedan world still anticipates the restoration of a Caliph and the likelihood is that they will go along with whichever side satisfies this desire. The Hindus are definitely, by and large, pro-Japanese, she continued.

"She touched briefly upon the history of India concerning the lesser known conflict there between the French and British, dating from the seizure of Quebec in Canada by the British, the French-Indian war here, etc. She stated that the role of France in the Orient and Near East even now is assuming more vital proportions than is generally realized.

"She stated that following the discontinuance or replacement of the French control of the East Indian Trading Co., the British gradually (but not as gradually as we seem to think), although they have moved more rapidly since the last war, brought a more stabilized peace to India, as the big and little Princes came within their influence, and as they grew to realize that the big would not be set against the little as had happened while the French and British were struggling for control of India.

"She mentioned the Parsees, the Sikhs, the provinces under Princes, etc. and other sects in India which are difficult for the British to correlate, as they cannot yield to one without endangering the cooperation of all the others. She praised the Parsees and Moslems as the most intelligent and civilized types, and deplored the usual run of speakers who visit America and speak in behalf of some form of nationalism for India, most if not all of whom are in disfavor with the British authorities for some good reason.

"She stated the war will not be won until the allies become aggressive, which they must do if they expect to win eventually, she said. (Her attitude throughout seemed to be expressed in her use of the word 'they' when talking about both sides in the war; she did not identify herself by saying 'we'.)

"She quoted from a recent article in the NATION regarding guerrilla warfare and urged all present to watch that angle as she felt that therein lay the hope of the allies for victory. She agreed with the author of that article, that when the allied planes fly over conquered territories that probably even in the air, civilian pilots and planes would come to their rear and aid.

"She felt her hearers would like to know of the whereabouts of some of the art treasures. She told of the removal of Mona Lisa and Winged Victory from Paris to a Chauteau where they were secreted in a basement, but someone revealed

"their whereabouts and she stated with vim that they are now in HITLER's own suite in Bergesgarden. (She did not say how she happened to know this). She stated that historical manuscripts and books which had been preserved for centuries and which were in the libraries of Paris, were taken and burned by the Nazis whenever favorable mention of Jews or anything objectionable to the Nazis was found by them.

"She urged all present to watch the newly organized SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, which she explained is a Christian crusade under the leadership of Arch-Bishop HENNELEY (?), which also very recently received the blessings of the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, and which is attracting the support of exiled French Catholics, Presbyterians, Lutherans, etc. She gave as one of their cardinal purposes, the settling of the war on a Christian basis. During the brief question period which followed, one of the ladies present asked if the effort at this time to turn this war into a religious crusade might not unite the other races who are not Christian and create added racial antagonisms. MARGUERITE HARRISON conceded that that might occur, but did not believe it would turn into racial lines, but she stated that we should in her opinion support the Mohammedan, the Buddhist and other religionists as well as Christians in the right to have the religion of their choice as enunciated in the Atlantic Charter. In this instance, she declared herself, in a measure.

"During the question period, she commented further that the peculiar Communists are very anti-British in India, while in America they are unitedly, whole-heartedly behind Britain. (This observer would differ with this deduction) However, another interrupted her and asked her to publish her views on India as she felt her analysis was so fine and so different from what is heard here. MARGUERITE HARRISON thanked her for the suggestion, and she saw no reason why she could not do so.

"The woman at the door (who took the tickets) urged all to see an exhibit of the development of rubber on display at a Building & Loan Company at 5th & Olive St., Los Angeles (diagonally across from the Los Angeles Biltmore.) With this discussion, the meeting adjourned for continued discussion at the luncheon tables. "

Investigation was conducted by Special Agent STANLEY R. RUSSO, on January 14, 1942 and March 1, 1942, as follows:

"On January 14, 1942, Special Agent STANLEY R. RUSSO recontacted Mr. L. G. HALLIDAY, the British Vice-Consul at Los Angeles, California, who advised that a recheck of his records reflected that subject's husband's passport was originally issued on September 29, 1930, at Nantes, France, and that this passport was renewed September 18, 1935, which would cover the period to 1940, and was not renewed thereafter. His records further reflected that subject's husband was born November 28, 1870, in London, England, and that subject was born on October 23, 1890, at Baltimore, Maryland. There was also a letter in his file dated September 3, 1935, from subject's husband, at which time he mentioned owning property in France

"at Fondettes, France, Department of Indre et Loire, France, which Mr. MALLIDAY advised is now in unoccupied France. Mr. HALLIDAY further stated that subject has been speaking in behalf of the British United Service Clubs and in behalf of the Daughters of the British Empire.

"In an application made by the subject's husband for membership in the British United Service Clubs he stated that he had been acting as British Consul at Tours. This statement was checked by Mr. HALLIDAY, and the file contains a letter from the British Consul at Nantes, stating that subject's husband had been Consul at Tours for several weeks in 1930. This letter describes subject's husband as highly recommended and said that both he and his wife 'could be given every attention without any risk', and Mr. HALLIDAY stated that he has perfect confidence in subject and that he himself was instrumental in getting her to make her last speech before the British United Service Clubs, due to her knowledge of Russian people as opposed to Communism and the Communistic form of government. He stated that his purpose in procuring her services was to make the Russia-Britain alliance appear 'more acceptable'. He described all of her speeches as 'very heartening, very encouraging and very satisfactory'.

"On March 1, 1942, Special Agent RUSSO interviewed Miss FARMER, Manager of the Los Angeles Women's Athletic Club, who stated that subject has been speaking there intermittently for several years; that she talks on world affairs and colors her talks with stories of her world travels, and that she planned to speak on March 5th about South America and our relations with the South American countries. She advised that this speech was to be at a women's luncheon, that the attendants would be all female and it would be inadvisable for a Bureau Agent to cover this speech. She stated however that subject plans to speak again on current events on March 16th at 8:00 o'clock in the evening when there would be men in attendance, at which time it might be advisable for a Bureau Agent to cover her talk.

"Miss FARMER stated that subject is vitally interested in woman's role in the national defense work and in labor, and in getting the right woman in the right defense job. She further stated that subject has spoken on material which she has obtained from friends in the Army and Navy. This Informant further stated that subject only gave one talk on Russia. She stated that subject has a nice personality, people seem to like her, but she has never heard her make any radical statements or give any radical talks, nor has she heard any rumors or gossip to this effect. This informant further stated that subject's husband comes to the meetings with her and that they are apparently devoted. Miss FARMER further stated that one MARGARET D. BOGART of 1615 North Columbus Avenue, Glendale, California, who formerly resided at 3807 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles, California, is closely associated with subject, but that she regarded her as a very odd woman having very peculiar mannerisms."

The results of the mail cover on mail addressed to 1329 North Formosa, disclosed the following mail addressed to ARTHUR M. BLAKE:

| <u>FROM</u>                                      | <u>RETURN<br/>ADDRESS</u>                   | <u>POSTMARKED</u> |
|--|---|-------------------|
| Belgium Information Center                       | 630 5th Avenue, New York City               | New York City     |
| Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies | 458 South Spring Street                     | Los Angeles       |
| Netherlands Information Bureau                   | 10 Rockefeller Plaza                        | New York City     |
| British Library of Information                   | 30 Rockefeller Plaza                        | New York City     |
|  | 220 Hickory Street,<br>Warren, Pennsylvania |                   |

The postmark dates on the above letters were during the month of October, 1941, and they were received by this office October 29, 1941.

| <u>FROM</u>                  | <u>RETURN<br/>ADDRESS</u>                          | <u>POSTMARKED</u>  |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Belgium Information Center   | 630 5th Avenue, New York City                      | New York City      |
| "NEWS REVIEW"                | 6 Catherine Street,<br>London, England             | -                  |
| Players                      | 16 Grammercy Park                                  | New York City      |
| British United Service Clubs | 617 South Olive Street,<br>Los Angeles, California | Los Angeles        |
|                              | 210 Gorham Building                                | Minneapolis, Minn. |
|                              | 124 East 72nd Street,<br>New York City             | New York City      |
| HENRY R. LUCE                | Rockefeller Plaza,<br>New York City                | Chicago, Ill.      |

All of the above covers were received at the Los Angeles Division Office on November 12, 1941, and were on mail during November, 1941.

Other mail addressed to ARTHUR M. BLAKE during November is as follows:

| <u>FROM</u> | <u>RETURN<br/>ADDRESS</u>               | <u>POSTMARKED</u> |
|-------------|---|-------------------|
| -           | 124 East 72nd Street                    | New York City     |
| -           | 6 Catherine Street,<br>London, England. | -                 |

| <u>FROM</u>                    | <u>RETURN ADDRESS</u>   | <u>POSTMARKED</u>                 |
|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Economy Headquarters           | -   | Warren, Penn.                     |
| Collins Importer               | 722 West 7th Street   | Los Angeles                       |
| Los Angeles Alumni Chapter     | 808 South Broadway  | Los Angeles                       |
| University of California       | 405 Hillgard Avenue   | Los Angeles                       |
| Ward Green Company             | 507 5th Avenue  | New York City                     |
| Director of Public Information | Ottowa, Ontario, Canada   | Ottowa, Ontario, Canada           |
| North American Company         | 60 Broadway   | New York City                     |
| -                              | 152 West 42nd Street<br>New York City   | Benton, Ohio                      |
| Fight For Freedom              | 1270 6th Avenue   | New York City                     |
| Webb Young                     | Box 1707, Santa Fe, New Mexico  | Santa Fe, New Mexico              |
| Muller Brothers                | 6380 Sunset   | Los Angeles                       |
| -                              | 2601 South Figueroa Street  | Los Angeles                       |
| Locridge                       | 2324 South Figueroa   | Los Angeles                       |
| PAUL BABST Company             | 6119 Hollywood Boulevard  | Los Angeles                       |
| Screen Actors Guild            | 7046 Hollywood Boulevard  | Los Angeles                       |
| San Antonio Gold Mines, Ltd.   | Box 304 Winnipeg, Canada  | Winnipeg, Canada                  |
| M. E. CLUBINE                  | -   | Los Angeles                       |
| W. J. COWEN                    | 2110 Mandeville Canyon Road<br>Suite 349,<br>7016 Euclid Avenue,<br>Cleveland, Ohio | West Los Angeles<br>New York City |
| Director of Information        | -   | Ottowa, Canada                    |
| -                              | Sidney, Australia   | Sidney, Australia                 |
| London S. W. I.                | London, England   | London, England                   |

(This letter had notation: "Examiner 4486")

| <u>FROM</u>                          | <u>RETURN<br/>ADDRESS</u>              | <u>POSTMARKED</u>      |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| BEAUVAIS FAY or FAX                  | 8439 Sunset                            | Los Angeles            |
| -                                    | 651 South Pasadena Avenue              | Pasadena, California   |
| News Research Service                | 727 West 7th Street                    | Los Angeles            |
| Bach Festival                        | 535 South Hoover                       | Los Angeles            |
| Puget Sound Pulp<br>& Timber Company | Box 964, Bellingham, Washington        | Bellingham, Washington |
| ROSE DAWN                            | Del Rio, Texas                         | Del Rio, Texas         |
| HOLLAND HAMILTON, M. D.              | 727 West 7th Street                    | Los Angeles, Calif.    |
| British-American<br>Ambulance Corps  | 9716 Santa Monica Boulevard            | Los Angeles            |
| Mrs. R. GEORGE                       | 687 Lexington                          | New York City          |
| Madame or Mrs. ALLUE                 | 9315 West Pico                         | Los Angeles            |
| KATHLEEN YATES                       | 233 South Wilton Place                 | Los Angeles            |
| Cleveland Trust Co.                  | -                                      | Cleveland, Ohio        |
| -                                    | 152 West 42nd Street<br>New York City  | Dayton, Ohio           |
| -                                    | 304 Bay Street<br>Toronto, Canada      | Toronto, Canada        |
| JAMES G. GILLICK                     | 2057 Central Street                    | Berkeley, California   |
| -                                    | Executive Offices<br>90 Broad Street   | New York City          |
| EDWIN O. HOLTER                      | 120 Broadway                           | New York City          |
| Citizens National Bank<br>Building   | Box 2457 Terminal Annex<br>Los Angeles | Los Angeles            |

A letter was also addressed to Mr. and Mrs. ARTHUR M. BLAKE, from the British Consulate, 440 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California, during November.

ARTHUR M. BLAKE, during October and November, 1941, received numerous letters from the Belgium Information Center, 630 5th Avenue, New York City and from the British Library of Information, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City.

Subject MARGUERITE HARRISON generally receives mail as Mrs. MARGUERITE BLAKE and during October and November, 1941, received mail from the following persons and addresses:

| <u>FROM</u>                                 | <u>RETURN<br/>ADDRESS</u>   | <u>POSTMARKED</u>            |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| -   | 1403 Gardener Street<br>Los Angeles, California                                   | Los Angeles                  |
| Query                                       | 123 West 43rd Street<br>New York City   | New York City                |
| Canadian Government<br>Trade Commission     | Associated Real Estate Building<br>510 West 6th Street<br>Los Angeles, California | Los Angeles<br>Nov. 25, 1941 |
| Society of Women<br>Geographers             | 232 Barr Building<br>Washington, D. C.  | Washington, D. C.            |
| Canadian Government<br>Trade Commission     | 510 West 6th Street<br>Los Angeles, California                                    | Los Angeles, Calif.          |
| Calvert Supply Co.                          | 510 Keyser Building<br>Baltimore, Maryland  | Baltimore, Md.               |
| British-American<br>Ambulance Corps         | 420 Lexington Avenue<br>New York City   | New York City                |
| Dr. ELGIN HYDE                              | 5504 Hollywood Boulevard<br>Los Angeles   | Los Angeles                  |
| MARY V. HOLLOWAY                            | 833 South Flower<br>Los Angeles, California                                       | Los Angeles                  |
| New Research Service                        | 727 West 7th Street<br>Los Angeles, California                                    | Los Angeles                  |
| W. S. POST                                  | 1699 North Columbus Avenue<br>Glendale, California                                | Los Angeles                  |
| British War Relief<br>Association           | 3576 Wilshire Boulevard   | Los Angeles                  |
| "Bit of Sweden"<br>(fashionable restaurant) | 9051 Sunset Boulevard<br>Los Angeles, California                                  | Los Angeles                  |
| -   | 25 Atwood Street<br>Hartford, Connecticut   | Hartford, Connecticut        |
| Jonathan Club                               | 6th and Flower Streets<br>Los Angeles, California                                 | Los Angeles                  |

FROM

RETURN  
ADDRESS

2201 M. Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

POSTMARKED

Washington, D.C.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, will again secure the services of Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] to cover lectures or meetings of the Subject at the Women's Athletic Club, Los Angeles, to determine the import of Subject's present activities.

Will ascertain the identity of MARY V. HOLLOWAY, 833 South Flower, Los Angeles, to determine her connection with the Subject.

Will determine the identity of W. S. POST, 1699 North Columbus Avenue, Glendale, California, a correspondent of the Subject.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Los Angeles, California  
April 8, 1942

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson .....  
Mr. E. A. Tamm .....  
Mr. Clegg .....  
Mr. Glavin .....  
Mr. Ladd .....  
Mr. Nichols .....  
Mr. Tracy .....  
Mr. Rosen .....  
Mr. Carson .....  
Mr. Coffey .....  
Mr. Henden .....  
Mr. HoKoman .....  
Mr. Quinn Tamm .....  
Mr. Nease .....  
Miss Gandy .....  
Files .....

RE: MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE,  
alias Marguerite-Harrison  
INTERNAL SECURITY

Dear Sir:

Kindly be advised that on January 20, 1942, the above-named subject, who stated that she resided at 1329 North Formosa, Hollywood, California, telephone Hillside 4087, appeared at the Los Angeles Division Office to offer her services to the United States Government and was interviewed by Special Agent G. C. EARL.

A memorandum of Special Agent G. C. EARL reflected that Subject advised that she was a former newspaper woman, and during the last war had done intelligence work for the Army. She advised that she reads and speaks fluently, Italian, Russian and German as well as English and that she desired to offer her services to the Bureau.

The subject stated that she would expect a small remuneration for her services and that she was not desirous of securing full-time employment, but that she would occasionally assist the Bureau in any capacity if there was need of her services.

The interviewing Agent advised Mrs. BLAKE of the qualifications of Bureau personnel.

Very truly yours,

*R. B. Hood*  
R. B. HOOD,  
Special Agent in Charge.

DWM:GLB  
62-2163

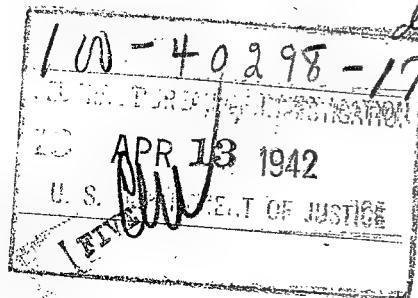
RECORDED  
SEARCHED  
INDEXED  
SERIALIZED  
FILED

7 APR 17 1942

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R-230

RECORDED



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO.

|                |
|----------------|
| Mr. Tolson     |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm |
| Mr. Clegg      |
| Mr. Glavin     |
| Mr. Heath      |
| Mr. Nichols    |
| W62-2163       |
| Mr. Tracy      |

|  |                                  |  |   |   |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>LOS ANGELES</b>   | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>5/19/42</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>4/2, 28/42</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>D. W. MAGEE</b>          | Mr. Cannon<br>Mr. Coffey <b>GLB</b><br>Mr. Hendon                           |
| TITLE<br><b>MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE,<br/>alias Marguerite Harrison,<br/>Margaret Harrison Blake.</b> |                                  |  | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>INTERNAL SECURITY</b> | Mr. Kramer<br>McGuire<br>Mr. Quinn Tamm<br>Mr. Nease<br>Miss Gandy<br>Files |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Subject gave a lecture at the Women's Athletic Club, Los Angeles, 4/2/42, describing in some detail the geographical arrangement and racial set-up of Russia, as well as making observations on her travel and speeches in Russia. She preferred that the audience not think of Russia as Russia, but as really a federation of 49 different nationalities. Her lecture considered the Indian and Japanese situation and she spoke with authority on the efficiency of the German espionage system. She also touched on the subject of hemisphere solidarity. She accused State Attorney General EARL WARREN of using the NOBLE case as a political springboard. She objected to racial discrimination. About 30 women and 1 man attended the lecture.

- C -

RECEIVED-SECURITY  
FBI  
DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FBI  
30 MAY 1942  
PSW

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent D. W. MAGEE, Los Angeles, dated 4/6/42.

|   |                         |                              |                     |
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| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Person</i>   | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES | RECORDED<br>INDEXED |
| COPIES DESTROYED <i>9-10-58</i>   | 100-40298-18            |                              |                     |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT <i>R-230</i>  |                         |                              |                     |
| 5 Bureau<br>1 San Diego (Inf.) DE 71121CE<br>1 San Francisco (Inf.)<br>1 Washington Field (Inf.)<br>2 Los Angeles | MAY 25 1942<br>FILE     |                              |                     |
|   |                         |                              |                     |

## DETAILS:

The title of the instant case is being changed to reflect as an additional alias for the Subject, the name MARGARET HARRISON BLAKE, as reflected in the instant investigation.

Subject BLAKE, using the name of MARGARET HARRISON BLAKE, spoke before an audience at the Women's Athletic Club, in the Green Room, 833 South Flower Street, Los Angeles, California, at 11:00 A.M., Thursday, April 2, 1942. Admission was by invitation and a fee of \$1.10. The audience consisted of about thirty women and one man. ~~Confidential National Defense Informant~~ covered the lecture and made the following report:

"The Lecture Agent for Mrs. Blake announced that due to the taking over of the Women's Athletic Club of Los Angeles by the Bank, it would be impossible for this group to continue to meet there; that inasmuch as this was the final lecture of this series, it would have to be decided if they wished to continue; that they could go on, on a month-to-month basis if it was possible to obtain the donation of the use of a home for the purpose, and by the present admission fee of \$1.10. Mrs. ~~FINLEY~~ of Bal-Air consented to the use of her home, but no definite announcement was made.

"A question was asked of MARGUERITE HARRISON BLAKE as she walked to the platform: 'Tell us, how far North Russia is populated?'

"Miss HARRISON, as she was most frequently called in this group at least, was very appreciative of this opener and devoted about half of her time to a detailed answer, during which, with the use of a map, she explained:

"The Lapps are nomads and while under Russian rule might not be considered Russian in the usual sense; that the area North of the Trans-Siberian Railway has many tribal groups, although it is spotted with lumber, mining, fishing villages, etc. but the population areas in the main followed the railroad lines and the warmer climates. She described some of the tribes and told of her stay in various localities in Russia, when she crossed Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railway.

"She particularly stressed the fact that all Russian railroads converge in Moscow, which she emphasized was the reason for Hitler's effort to reach Moscow, as all the main lines radiate from Moscow; they again meet (two lines) at Omsk which she pointed out as the next important objective after Moscow. She stated that the more direct route in the Orient (after the Trans-Siberian Railroad again splits) through Harbin, was in the hands of the Japanese and that some of the line which follows the Amur River had been destroyed. The breaks in the Amur River route are of importance to America, she continued, as that would effect supplies reaching the much desired bases in Siberia after air use, etc.

"She repeatedly emphasized the importance of Petropavlosk, the main Soviet naval base, as a major military area; Nickolaisk (phonetic spelling) she rated as second only in importance to Petropavlosk, as Nickolaisk is a rail terminal and supply base. If America succeeds in working out an offensive from the Aleutian Islands, she will need the cooperation of Russia in the above areas, and Russia may need the help of America in holding them.

"She then jumped to the populations South of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. She described the Cossacks as a very independent war-like people, whom the 'Bolsheviks' had had to deal with and give special concessions to. She used the term 'Bolsheviks' interchangeably with the Russians quite frequently.

"She spent weeks with Russians North of the Mongolian Border some years ago, she said; these Russians had been persecuted for religious beliefs and were an off-shoot of the Russian Orthodox group and were similar to the ones now in Mexico near Ensenada about whom she gave the impression she knew considerable. Unless you believe as they do, they give you separate dishes specially washed as they look upon you as unclean, she said.

"She praised the Tajiks, 'who are Ayran like the Persians'. Later she said that the Tajiks are Moslems and predicted that the Moslems will win.

"She told of visiting and spending some time in 1921 with the German Katushka colony in the Ukraine, and commented that the Katushkans (?) are as German today as they were when they arrived in Russia generations ago, and that one of the first things the Bolsheviks had to do after their break with Germany was to handle the Katushkans as they constituted a fifth column somewhat similar to the Japanese in California.

"She felt that we should not think of Russia as Russian, as it is really a federation of 49 different nationalities.

"She then devoted the major portion of the balance of her talk to the Indian situation. She stated that:

"The Indian problem reaches to the Atlantic and does not look too good today. She reminded her audience with some boastfulness that she had predicted a month and more ago that 'the Japanese would be much more likely to go for India instead of Australia'. 'Our Philippines are stubbornly holding out and are a tremendous block in the way of Japan to Australia.' 'Japanese shipping losses have been tremendous'. She pointed out on the map the land approach of Japan toward India and felt the seizure of a locality in Northwest Burma yesterday, within easy striking distance of Calcutta, was a very important gain for the Japanese.

"Further, referring to the map, the taking of the Andaman Islands by Japan was invaluable to her in her approach to Ceylon, she continued. Japan has utilized the Burmese who were only severed from India in 1937 and they too will be invaluable to Japan. Aside from the Moslems, who are good fighters, there are no real fighters in India with the exception of the Hindu Sikhs, she stated; the Hindus are not and never will be good fighters because of Ghandi; there are about 4,500,000 Sikhs; Nehru is not a Pacifist although Ghandi is; Jinnah, the Mohammedan Moslem leader, who heads nearly 80,000,000 who are really fighters and will fight if it is not too late to get supplies through to them.

"If Japan holds Singapore, Ceylon and the point in Burma opposite Calcutta, she will keep supplies from getting through. India is not equipped to fight and

"the question of equipment is even more important as it remains to be seen if the lines can be kept open.

"'Miss HARRISON' stated further that: 'Ghandi probably controls 150,000,000 people, out of the 300,000,000 in India; Ghandi is just as much opposed to Japan as to the British; you will find that when the Japanese get into India there will be non-cooperation and sabotage on a scale we have never witnessed; if the Japanese get into India, I am inclined to think that Ghandi's method of non-cooperation will be as effective as anything.'

"She told of strikes in the past and how Ghandi's followers would lay down on the railroad tracks by the hundreds and not allow the trains to move, and how the British would desist and not keep on, but predicted that the Japanese would not be so considerate, although as hundreds would be killed when the Japanese would start moving, hundreds more of the Indians would lay down on the tracks undoubtedly, she felt; so the Japanese would not have an altogether easy time she felt sure.

"She then told of the tribal inhabitants of the French Island of Madagascar, which is on the direct supply route to India around the Cape of Good Hope, she explained. 'These people are not African, but a Mongloid people, with a tribal religion.' She stated the French Government has not been very kind to these people and anticipated that they might easily follow the attitude of the Burmese who are so friendly to Japan, and commented that the people on the French Island of Madagascar don't trust Vichy either and 'the Japanese can do most devastating work there'.

"'Nobody knows Hitler's next move' - whether or not it will be toward Sweden as some suspect. She felt that the report of the escape of 10 ships from Norwegian waters was just a little straw as to what might be expected and that this might be a move to blockade or block aid to Russia. 'All of these things we hear are nothing more than strategic moves and don't mean a thing' was her next amazing statement. 'All military experts agree something startling will happen. Whether Hitler will move on Russia, take over all Scandinavian countries, go to Turkey or meet General Rommel, nobody knows.'

"The 'Germans unfortunately still hold every strategic point they have taken regardless of Russia's reports of re-taking a town of 20 people or 30 people. They have strong fortified outposts all along the Russian front.' She thought it not unlikely that the Germans would draw the Russians into grips, perhaps even permit them to encircle them (the Germans) and would then wipe the Russians out.

"She told a story which she claimed she knew to be absolutely true, of the efficiency of the German spy system which leaves no detail out. This actually happened, she declared, near Smolensk although she said it sounds fantastic, but emphasized that it really did occur. In the rapid interchange of territory, on the German-Soviet front, children became lost from their relatives. One small boy about 8 yrs. old in size, was utterly bedraggled and forlorn, spoke Russian fluently, said his family had gone on to relatives in Germany, etc. A Russian officer took him in; the supposed child attended school, mingled with other children, was well taken care of. One day the Russian officer was watching him when out with other children, some time later, and noticed that this boy was much more developed, the shape of his head was mature, his neck and other muscles were hard and firm, etc. The Russian officer called to the boy and asked him to go with him for a walk. The boy feigned bashfulness and tried

"to avoid going. The Russian officer insisted and took the boy to his staff headquarters, where they questioned the boy for hours and then called in their medical officers who examined the boy and found him to be a mature German, a dwarf, carefully educated and trained for this special spy work. The Russians, she declared, later discovered 4 or 6 other male dwarfs and two or three women dwarfs also engaged in the same intelligence work behind the Russian lines for the Nazis, all of whom spoke Russian perfectly.

"'Miss HARRISON' stated that although her time was almost up she did want for a moment to look at conditions in the United States. 'We are not building ships enough'. '96 ships - cargo ships - had been sunk on the Atlantic Coast alone up to a few days ago.' She touched on difficulties with welders, etc.

"'We haven't Hemisphere Solidarity'. 'We cannot have hemisphere solidarity without Argentine and Chile. They are for perfectly good reasons of their own looking out for themselves.' 'Because of lack of ships we are losing the chance to get these two countries on our side, without which Hemisphere solidarity is impossible. Turning down naval supplies to Argentine is not going to make the feeling any better. That is an appalling thing.'

"She then turned to LEW AYRES, who has just gone to a conscientious objector's camp. 'It is a pity he could not go into the medical corps, and it is a pity the incident was made so conspicuous. Some won't take lives but would give their lives, and poor AYRES seems to have been made a scape-goat.'

"She then told a story of a man who was a conscientious objector during the last war and how he was moved along in the army faster than his protests against using a gun to kill were passed up the line. Finally, he found himself under fire (near Gallipoli I would judge) and refused to fire. However, he went out of his own accord under heavy shell fire and calmly stood at a well and drew up canteen after canteen of water for the men who needed it so badly, and returned safely time after time to them - did this a thousand times for them; was returned to America, court-martialed and then given the Distinguished Service Cross and transferred to the Red Cross. She felt Lew Ayres should have been permitted to serve in the Red Cross for instance, and that any of his views should have been held in confidence between him and his draft board and his future not jeopardized. 'The publicity has been pitiful and disgraceful.'

"She stated that a friend of hers had gone down and organized a colored section of the Red Cross here, and that those negro women had done a magnificent job, a work that Bel-Air or Beverly Hills or anywhere else might well be proud of. This friend called on the editor of the Pasadena Star-News and asked him to publish a write-up of this accomplishment, thinking it might stimulate others elsewhere, and to her amazement the editor told her it was very interesting but declined to publish it fearing it would offend his readers. Miss Harrison denounced this discrimination as just as much a part of the fifth column as the statements accredited to the estimable Mr. NOBLE who said much more last Fall than when he attacked General MacArthur the other day.' She then attacked EARL WARREN (Attorney-General of Calif.) for going after Mr. NOBLE, and ridiculed Mr. WARREN for using this case as a political spring-board for his candidacy for Governor of California, although she explained that the FBI pulled

"his (WARREN'S) punch somewhat the following day, but the reason for WARREN'S attack became clear, she commented. (NOTE: SHE SAID NOTHING DISPARAGING OF ROBT~~V~~ NOBLE) She emphasized the fact that the Attorney General of the United States had not seen fit to hold Mr. NOBLE up to that time.

"Miss HARRISON then closed her lecture (12:10 Noon) for questions.

"She was asked about the size of Manchukuo, which she outlined on the map.

"She was next asked about the attitude of Korea toward the war in the Pacific. She replied that the Christian missionaries had found the outcast Koreans (or low cast) very receptive as they had also found the outcasts in India; that those groups looked to Christianity as a refuge from the plight they were in; but that the old aristocracy is decadent; that the commercial classes are pro-Japanese and the masses of Korea, China and the Orient generally speaking are passive and not particularly for or against anything. The type we see in America, of educated Orientals, are the rare exception there. However, within Korea is also a nationalist movement which is neither pro-Japanese nor pro-Chinese nor pro-anything but for Korean independence, and is trying at all times to use any outside power that serves them for the moment.

"5 or more women remained for luncheon with Miss HARRISON. "

Information has been received from the San Diego Division Office that Subject had talked before the Hostesses of the San Diego United Service Organization (USO) on April 27, 1942 at the El Cortez Hotel. It appears that the San Diego Unit of the USO had requested Mrs. EDWARD G. ROBINSON, apparently the wife of a motion picture actor, to send a speaker to San Diego and that the Subject appeared on the scene. The San Diego Division Office appears to have an Informant who is active in USO work in that area and is particularly interested in the activities of the so-called Hollywood ultra-liberal crowd and their influence in the USO.

Investigation at Los Angeles developed that the Subject has never appeared as a speaker for the USO in this area.

Inasmuch as the Subject will not have the facilities of the Women's Athletic Club for subsequent lectures, here, her discussions will not here-after be reported. It is thought that the investigation of her lectures, given in this report and the report of reference, fully describes her activities.

- C L O S E D -

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES

FILE NO. 62-2

|   |  |                                     |                               |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| REPORT MADE AT<br>LOS ANGELES   | DATE WHEN MADE<br>6/23/42              | PERIOD FOR<br>WHICH MADE<br>6/15/42 | REPORT MADE BY<br>D. W. MAGEE |
| TITLE<br>MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE,<br>with aliases Marguerite Harrison,<br>Margaret Harrison Blake | CHARACTER OF CASE<br>INTERNAL SECURITY |                                     |                               |

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Kramer  
Mr. McGuire  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Subject gave a lecture on night of 6/15/42 to a small group in a residence at 610 South Wilton St., Los Angeles, where telephone is listed to WRIGHT S. HOAG. Subject spoke on Russia chiefly and the report of the lecture by an Informant reflected some discontent among the Russian people as well as indicating a colossal loss in the Red Army. Informant felt Subject had German sympathies.

- C -

DETAILS:

This case is being reopened to report a lecture given by Subject at a private residence on the night of June 15, 1942.

Subject on the night of June 15, 1942, gave a lecture at the residence of 610 South Wilton Street, Los Angeles, which is the home of WRIGHT S. HOAG which the Informant caught phonetically as HONIG. This meeting was covered by Source Q and the report of this Informant is quoted hereinafter. The Informant has never seen the husband of Subject. Informant stated that usually a funny type of people seem to attend these lectures, and Subject never seems to accomplish much. Informant gained the impression that the husband of Subject is supposed to have considerable property in France. Subject claimed that some military man from San Francisco, California, has been down to see her (the Subject) and that this military man has asked Subject considerable about the Arctic Situation. Informant feels that Subject leans a little toward

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| APPROVED AND<br>FORWARDED: <i>Parry food</i>  | SPECIAL AGENT<br>IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <i>Parry</i> SE |                          |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>5 - Bureau<br>1 - San Diego (Inf.)<br>1 - San Francisco (Inf.)<br>1 - Washington Field (Inf.)<br>2 - Los Angeles |                            | 100 - 40298-19                               | RECORDED<br>&<br>INDEXED |
| COPIES DESTROYED<br>9-10-58   |                            | JUN 27 1942                                  | EX-3                     |
| P-206 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE - 0 7-2044   |                            |  |                          |

German sympathies.

The following is a copy of the report submitted by Informant Source Q:

"By invitation and upon payment of \$1.10 admission fee, twelve or more men and women gathered at 8:00 P.M., Monday Evening, June 15th, 1942, at 610 South Wilton, Los Angeles, to hear MARGUERITE HARRISON BLAKE. The names of those residing at this residential address were not given on the invitation; nor were they presented during the evening. In conversation however, the name was believed to be Mrs. HONIG (?).

"As the group arrived, 'Miss HARRISON' (as she was generally called) commented on the uniformed women's voluntary corps who are so busy learning the Morse Code one night (at least some of them including some of her friends), something else that they will never have to do another night, neglecting their homes, etc. She felt the situation was appalling and that if they really wanted to do something they ought to organize a land army as the women are doing in England and harvest the crops which we are going to need most desperately.

"MARGUERITE HARRISON BLAKE spoke in front of a lighted map for a full hour and answered questions for a half hour. She chose as her subject of the evening to concentrate on Russia. Highlights of her talk are as follows:

"The importance of Russia to us is that it gives us a chance to gain time. I get a Bulletin from England which gives much information you do not get in this country. It is somewhat like the Bulletins that come out of Washington, but it is a government release. The Bulletin from England gives much fuller information.

"When TIMOSHENKO made that drive, we thought the fall of Kharkov was imminent. Neutral observers in Switzerland tell us there was discontent among the Russian people and that TIMOSHENKO's move was as much political as it was a military move. I think that is interesting, don't you, but Washington didn't tell us. ....

"The losses in the Red Army have been colossal; they have had to move up mostly untrained troops - untrained reserves. ....

"Another observer whose comments come to us through the Swiss, tells of the German occupation of part of Russia and actually told them a year ago of the hatred of the Russians against the Soviet regime. ....

"The Germans have taken all of the Crimea except Sevastopol and if we can believe our papers that may have been taken today as well. The Germans have done just what I told you I thought they would do. There is a provisional Government in the Ukraine sponsored by the Nazis, headed by PAVLENKO (?) and the leader of the Ukrainian Nationalist Movement - GENERAL SATCHENCO (?) has organized and placed at the disposition of the Germans an army of 150,000 Ukrainians who are now fight-

"ing the Rumanians. Why we haven't heard these important facts I cannot tell you. Evidently the Bureaus of Washington do not feel we are old enough to know the facts. I do not think that Washington gives us anything but the truth, but they do not tell us all the facts.

"We have a great many Ukrainians (I was on the Baltimore Sun during the last war and made a survey of alien born for them) so I know that we have a great many Ukrainians. We then had more than three million Ukrainians. The TUTUNIKS are the underground Ukrainian movement and it would be interesting to know what the TUTUNIKS are doing now in America - that is something the FBI ought to be interested in. The Ukrainians have been doing underground work for years and are all over this country. There is a possible fifth column. They are very experienced in guerilla tactics. All the time I was in prison in Russia, the Ukrainian Guerrillas kept up a warfare and are now probably included in the German Army. ... .

"Destruction of factories by Russians in the Ukraine, (the industrial section of Russia), loss of the water-power of the Dneiprestroy Dam which has not been repaired, was no doubt due to these Guerrillas. A great many of those factories in Kiev, Orel, etc. the Germans are now using to capacity. This too has not been told us. The Germans have put in substitute machinery and are using efficiently these Soviet industries which we were led to believe were hopelessly ruined. That is the explanation why we have not heard of the fall of these cities. ... .

"A Swiss observer said food conditions are very bad and Russians are just as hard up as in Germany, and this largely hinges on inadequate Russian transportation. ... .

"The civilian population in Moscow is fareing very badly. I wish the CIO could hear this. The defense workers work from 14 to 16 hours a day and have only one day off in 24 - 24 hours. Twenty-four hours off in 24 days and that is ALL they get in the munition works. I do wish the CIO could hear me say this. They are given food in the Government dining rooms. In the morning: hot water and black bread - all they want of it but nothing else; at noon - soup, bread - all they want of it, boiled meat with potatoes and black bread; at night: soup and black bread without the meat. Consequently efficiency has dropped considerably but that is still going on. There isn't enough seed to go around for this year's harvest. Most of the seed grain has come from the Ukraine which is now in German hands. They are short of fodder and about 25% of the cattle have been killed for meat. A Swedish observer said that he cannot exaggerate the importance of the lend-lease supplies going to Russia. Whatever happens in Russia will prolong this war if it goes against the United Nations, but Russia cannot win this war; the powers who will win this war, he said, are the powers that will win control of the sea and the air. We know the combined production of Britain and the United States is going to eventually exceed any possible potential productive capacity of the Axis powers. If Russia is defeated, and it is by no means certain that she will be defeated, Hitler has not won the war unless he gets control of the sea lanes of the world. So it is not a hopeless picture. ... .

"Attrition of Germany is tremendous and it is getting more and more difficult for them to turn back. The negative value of the Russian campaign is of enormous value to us. . . .

"The Swiss observer says that the Soviet Government is encouraging the Russian people to exercise their religion. When he was in Yaroslav all 40 churches were closed. When the attack on Russia began, the Yaroslav authorities found one old priest and told him he could open a church a few weeks ago. The old priest (there are no young priests in Russia) did not want to be caught by the OGPU and would not accept, so he was taken to Moscow and brought before the Commissar of Education and impressed with his authority. He was returned to Yaroslav and he is now preaching every Sunday and Saint's Day to huge crowds, and Red Army soldiers, and it is so crowded that people cannot get in unless they come early.

"About 300,000 Polish prisoners were left in Russia after the last war in Poland - they were Polish Catholics. 100,000 are in the Polish Legion. Russians flocked into it. All religious symbols were abolished and the Polish soldiers carved crosses out of bones. Even though the old Russian Church did not approve of the Catholic Church, the Russians begged for the crosses and the Polish soldiers could have given away hundreds more than they had. It shows that a quarter of a century is not going to destroy the impulses of the soul - a quarter of century of anti-religious activity. I think the same thing will happen some day in Germany.

"The news about the Aleutian Islands is very good indeed. As long as the Japanese kept their Navy intact, they caught several of our ships on the way to India with supplies. . . . They allowed their ships to get within range of land based aircraft and that is what happened to the Repulse, and yet the Japanese did that very thing in the Coral Sea without any land based aircraft to fall back on; the same thing happened in the Midway battles and the Aleutian Islands. . . . .

"It is possible that the Russians may start an offensive against the Japanese and it is significant that the Japanese were not mentioned in the Russian-Anglo-American agreements. It looks like the Japanese fleet is too crippled for any offensive against Alaska, but occupying the Aleutian Island ATTU is only 400 miles from KORMANDOSK (?) (in the Arctic Sea) ISLAND and the Russians have an air base there - a very fine air base and radio station, and from there it is only about 600 miles to PETROPAVLASK (?) the largest Naval (Russian) bases in the Near East and of so much more importance to the Russians than Vladivostock, because it is in the Sea of Japan and blocked by narrow straights. HARBARRON (?) is of far more importance to the Russians than Vladivostock. Vladivostock is of no earthly good whatever to the Russians and I don't think the Russians would seriously try to defend it, but Petropavlovsk is important. By a series of steps, the Russians could receive supplies from us from Anchorage, from Dutch Harbor and so on. Even land based aircraft could be used against the Japanese. If the

"Japanese have ever so slender a foothold in the Aleutians, they would be able to place observers and intercept and forestall our cooperation with the Russians, and have a base they could intercept an offensive that would start from this side for Tokyo.

"I travelled all across Russia and up to Irkutsk, but I have not been up above the Kamchatka Peninsula. The other day I had a visit from an Army Officer from San Francisco. He asked for data and I went to the library and found what I could and then I went and talked with one of my Russian friends here. We have no permanent military observers at the Russian front. The Russians are very secretive. In 1934 the Russian Icebreaker CHEVISKIN (?) was marooned for one winter and Soviet aviators rescued the crew ... (She told of Arctic being made habitable, of Soviet development of oil, coal, nickel, etc. - development of electricity, growing of vegetables under electricity, building of homes on poles that reach down to ice bed which never melts and they are founded on ice instead of a rock, but this keeps them from tilting as the ice melts, etc.)

"I was perfectly amazed to find that the Russians have maintained a summer sea route out through the Bering Sea and have a chain of air bases up to CAPE OTTO SCHMIDT. ... From Cape Cheluskin to Cape Otto Schmidt there have been placed air bases and landing places so you see what tremendous importance that development is to us.

"I think ELMER DAVIS is one of our finest commentators. He is a very intimate friend of ROBERT SHERWOOD who writes the President's fireside chats. This is just a little bit of Washington gossip I wanted to tell you.

"Going back to the Japanese, historically the Japanese might well say to themselves 'What right have they to the maritime provinces which were technically a part of the Chinese Empire'?. I think it is almost certain the Japanese will be involved with Russia unless Germany overcomes the Russians. The Japanese have all they intended to do by taking Burma until they subjugated China. They were trying to take Ceylon and Madagascar but for once the Allies were too smart -for once."

(Discussion started from the audience, to which MARGUERITE HARRISON BLAKE responded as follows:)

"I do not place much faith in reports that conditions are bad in Germany. If the general public and even some officials at Washington might induce you to make a premature landing in Holland or Belgium or somewhere else - I am leery of those reports. I don't believe anything like that Hamburg incident would get out of Germany without some purpose of the Germans themselves."

Regarding inquiry concerning delay of German Spring Offensive: "I think the tremendous transportation problems and RAF crippling of industries has delayed the German offensive. ROMMEL's offensive has been an endless battle. I think it was

"chiefly mechanical difficulties that stood in the way of the German offensive. I think the Germans really thought they could establish a fairly effective new order in every conquered country and it has been more of a drain I believe than they realized, and there are four German divisions in Yugoslavia still and they have had to double their men in every conquered country."

In response to request for more of the background of the Ukraine: "From the time of the OCTOBRISTS in 1828, there began to be a distinctly Ukrainian Nationalist Movement. There was a provisional government set up by the Germans in the Ukraine and I knew Mr. PETLORA (?) later in Poland. Then the Bolsheviks fought them for a time. In the Ukraine has been a separatist movement; a certain element would accept help from anybody. In America the Ukrainians are principally in New York, coal fields of Pennsylvania, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and in the grain fields of Minnesota and the Mid-West. There are huge settlements of Ukrainians in Canada - mostly farmers, where they don't even speak English. My husband and I drove across Canada last summer - from Winnipeg to Calgary across the worst transcontinental highway in the world - we went through many of these Ukrainian villages where no English is even spoken - all through these strategic wheat growing regions. I stopped in many of them. I am just wondering how strong the TUTUNYIK is in all of these places." (TUTUNYIK - UKRAINIAN SECRET SOCIETY).

She further emphasized that Sweden although neutral was still supplying Germany with huge quantities of coal.

"PEGGY BOGART closed the meeting. She serves as a sort of agent seemingly for Miss HARRISON. She reminded the group, as she has announced at the beginning of the evening, that the next meeting will probably convene at the Hotel NORMANDIE. She recommended dinner there preceding the meeting. Miss HOLLOWAY, formerly of the Women's Athletic Club which is now defunct, is staying there and would handle arrangements for them, as she had done when they met the Women's Athletic Club for Miss HARRISON's lectures. However, they will send those present postal invitations in advance."

No further coverage will be made on the lectures or meetings held by Subject who now appears to have occasional meetings at different homes from time to time, usually charging an admission fee. For the time being, this case will be closed at the Los Angeles Field Division, office of origin.

- C L O S E D -

IDENTITY OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

Informant identified as Informant Source Q in instant report is identical with Confidential National Defense Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FILE NO. 62-2163

| REPORT MADE AT  | DATE WHEN MADE    | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE | REPORT MADE BY | MR. HENDERSON  |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|
| LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA   | 7/21/42           | 7/8/42                | D. W. MAGEE    | Mr. Kramer<br>Mr. McGuire<br>Mr. Quinn <b>C. I. M.</b> |
| TITLE   | CHARACTER OF CASE |                       |                | Mr. Nease<br>Miss Gandy<br>Files                       |
| MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE, with<br>aliases: Marguerite Harrison, Margaret<br>Harrison Blake | INTERNAL SECURITY |                       |                |  |

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

#### **SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject started a new series of lectures, four in number, to be given on the dates of July 8 and 22 and August 5 and 19, 1942, before members of the American Banking Institute, sponsored by the Women's Committee. An informant attended the first lecture on July 8, 1942, and her report describing the lecture is quoted herein. A pamphlet of the American Banking Institute, published at Los Angeles, reflects that subject was once a foreign agent in Russia for the U. S. State Department. In the lecture she described herself as a spy working in Russia on espionage during the revolutionary period of 1918.

-P-

**DETAILS:**

DETAILS: This case is being reopened to report another lecture given by the subject on July 8, 1942, which is the first lecture of a series of four lectures to be given before and under the auspices of the Los Angeles chapter of the American Institute of Banking. This lecture was given at 629 South Hill Street, Los Angeles. Prior reports and correspondence on subject appear in Bureau File No. 100-40298.

An informant attended this lecture and is described as Source Q. The report of Informant Q concerning the lecture of subject on July 8, 1942, is as follows:

"Between 50 and 60 persons were present, all women with the exception of three or four men, and largely Bank employees.

"Miss HARRISON, as she is usually ~~at~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~of~~ <sup>at</sup> ~~marriage~~ <sup>marriage</sup>, gave more of an introductory talk and dwelt on a geographic discussion, illustrating her points on *MC*

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"the map, as a preliminary to future addresses.

"She told of her personal acquaintance with Premier REFIK SAYDAM of Turkey who died that day which she greatly deplored and felt it was a real tragedy that he had to go at this crucial time. She stated:

"Turkey is very helpless. They grew to hate the Germans in the last War.' She pointed out the encirclement of Turkey and squeeze play the Axis powers are pursuing, which if successful will cut Turkey off from the outside world. She repeated: 'The death today of Premier SAYDAM is very tragic, as he was very friendly to America. I knew him very well. It won't be surprising if ROMMELL doesn't get a set back, that Turkey will go with the Germans. Turkey has no industries. In Russia things do not look so good and we will have to wait a few days because Russian and German dispatches are so contradictory, before we know approximately what is transpiring...

"The general German advance is to the Urals in an effort to cut all railway lines to Moscow... Hitler hasn't as far to go for that Russian oil as many people seem to think. Oil wells are also at Malotub (?) on the North side of the Caucasus and that will be Hitler's first objective. It is comparatively easy country to fight over. That is the country of the picturesque Cossacks - a grazing country - crossed only by two railroads which run up in the general direction of Moscow. If Hitler ever gets to Rostov, he will have a lot of difficulty, but he will have more difficulty to reach Baku and cross the Caucasus Mts. which are 16 to 18,000 feet high. Next time I want to talk to you more about Russia and particularly about Siberia.

"The oil wells in the Kerch Peninsula produce about 20% and about 80% of Russia's oil is produced on the other side of the mountains.'

"Miss HARRISON was asked why the British didn't blow up the oil wells in Roumania. She replied:

"Roumania was virtually occupied. Germany occupied Roumania but not technically and up to a certain period under international law, there was no valid reason, as Roumania had the status of a neutral country. Since Roumania has been at war with Britain and we have been also for about a month at war with Roumania, some of our own Americans bombed those fields. Sometimes we wonder if it might be better for us to be more unscrupulous than to stick so closely to international law.'

"She was next asked about her imprisonment in Russia. She stated:

"I was an agent of the American Government and was doing what was known

"as espionage, and I was quite as guilty as some of these gentlemen the Germans have shot. I was much more iniquitous than Edith Cavell - she was comparatively innocent during the last war, and in view of what I did do, I think the Russians treated me all right. I was there during their revolution and right after it. They thought me more valuable alive than dead and from their point of view that proved to be right. I speak and write Russian too, and I went into Russia during their revolution as an agent."

"She was then asked how the Germans continue to have so many supplies and reinforcements if their industries are being bombed right along as we read in the press. She replied:

"We must remember that the short nights are now on - it is the summer season. To get to Berlin and back with bombs during that brief period of darkness is very difficult and bombing of their Western factories is more vital right now. If we ever get a foothold on the Continent, you may be very sure there will be many bombs dropped on Czechoslovakia, etc."

"Regarding superiority in airplanes, she stated:

"In the building of airplanes, honors have been pretty nearly divided between Britain and the United States. The British acknowledge some of ours are better and America acknowledges some of theirs are better. We haven't reached the point where we standardize all mechanized equipment. Ours is a little different from the British equipment, just as the French warships are very different from the Germans, and if we take them over eventually we will have to train French crews to man them. In all armies of Democracy, which are very small in peace time, you get an officer class with old traditions. We had it in the last World War and fared very badly until General Foch was made Commander in Chief. I think we would find a great deal of dead wood now. You have noticed that Admiral KIMMEL and General SHORT in connection with Pearl Harbor have not been court martialed although they have been made scape-goats. I don't think Washington was ready for that emergency as the totalitarian powers are. We dislike to believe in treachery. I think the blame was right in Washington.....The British were much the same in Singapore. On December 12th (?) our General MacARTHUR, although the Japanese had already attacked Pearl Harbor - his planes were all on the ground. I don't think we should criticize. I think we should pitch in and remedy all short-comings and all pull together."

"She was next asked about sending of food to starving Europe and replied:

"Feeding of starving Europe is almost impossible at this time. Our most important thing is winning this war. We must realize we have to supply

"our own troops in the British Isles, send vast supplies to Russia by two routes - Murmansk or up through the Persian Gulf. I want to talk to you about sending materiel through the North Sea next time. Australia has no oil. We have troops on the Persian Gulf, at Eretrea and elsewhere, and we haven't enough merchant tonnage to get supplies to our own troops. Any food for Europe is not a live issue, terrible though it sounds. However, if the war is won, and during the Armistice period, we will have to do something. I don't think people realize how important this shipping business is. We must have production, but we cannot have it without materials - tin from Bolivia, iron ore, copper from Chile, manganese from South America....I could go through along list of strategic materials. In addition we have to keep the loyalty of the Latin American countries by supplying them with manufactured stuff. I think one of the reasons Argentine has stood aloof is because we have not sent them all they want; they are getting short on cars, tires, radios, sewing machines, and that is part of our good neighbor job to supply them. That is far more important than Mr. Rockefeller's expensive propaganda. We are a long way from being safe yet.'

"She was asked regarding uprisings in the occupied countries at the present time and stated:

"I think the uprisings in the occupied countries at the present time are having hardly any influence except as they necessitate keeping larger garrisons in those localities. When and if a second front is opened they may be in position to give aid, although I think we may have our second front in the near East, but I have reason to know that ground is being laid by secret agents. Today it is merely a bomb dropped here and there and great masses of people have no arms to use, and it simply means killing of hundreds of people.'

"The next question concerned the influence of Spain, and she replied:

"I don't believe Spain enters into Hitler's strategic plans now, and in fact he may find he is going to too many places at once, and as long as Spain is more or less neutral for the time being I do not think he will bother...Everything depends on how long it is before Russia is defeated and if Rommel holds out. The road through Norway is very difficult. Some information I get from various sources shows definitely that the Italian people would welcome the British. If Rommel were wiped out and the Allies were once into Italy, they could spread up into France and Austria and that is a very beautiful and alluring prospect, but where and when will depend on developments in Africa. China wants us to open a Far Eastern front and it seems to me China is a little optimistic. All supplies have to come to China by air, and I don't think that is very promising unless the Japanese open it themselves and I will talk to you about that next time.'

"She was asked when she was last in Germany, and stated (also re food supplies):

"In 1939, when my husband and I were in Germany, according to our standards, the food situation was serious. We left Germany a few days before Hitler went into Poland in the summer of 1939 and we motored through Germany, and we had no butter (as we stopped along the way with friends, etc.), very little milk, no beef or mutton, which was preserved for the Army, but all the horse meat you wanted, plenty of potatoes and coarse vegetables, sugar was scarce and all we got was synthetic, no pepper unless you asked the head waiter for it. The peasants were not allowed to keep their grain and flour. The standard bread was grey and composed of all sorts of things that gave you indigestion. We had no real coffee but substitute chicory and dried peas were served for coffee. We lived that way for four weeks and there was plenty of that; that is, you could get all the horse steaks you wanted.'

"She was asked what to believe as to losses, etc. on the Soviet front and commented:

"The Russian casualty lists should be divided by at least five to get the proper number and you should multiply the German casualty lists by two, and you might then get somewhere near the truth. Propaganda in this war is just as much a weapon as tanks or guns. People of all conquered countries are being made to work. They have now begun to conscript Jews in the German Army, I noted in the press. (laughter). All dogs in Holland above 18 inches in height have been requisitioned by the German Army. That interested me because we are so fond of our dog. Just imagine that.'

"She was asked if foreign correspondents are permitted to go to the Soviet front and stated:

"Foreign correspondents when making visits of ceremony are not allowed on the Russian front. All dispatches come from Moscow or Kubyshev and to a very large extent that is one of the draw-backs there has been; it has been only on very rare occasions when members of our military mission were permitted to visit the front lines."

A pamphlet issued by the Los Angeles chapter of the American Institute of Banking is entitled "World Conflict in Review", and carries a picture of subject under the name of MARGUERITE HARRISON, described as a "world traveler, writer and speaker". The pamphlet indicates that there will be a series of four lectures on July 8 and 22 and August 5 and 19, 1942, between the hours of 6 and 7:30 P.M. A photograph of the subject appears on this pamphlet,

together with the titles given by her as to the subject matter on which she will speak, which are as follows:

- "Geopolitical Ambitions of Aggressors"
- "The Military Struggle for Power"
- "Comments Keyed to Events"
- "Our Country Today and Tomorrow"
- "Siberia and the Aleutians Next?"
- "Can the Russians Hold out This Summer?"
- "Witty, Forceful, Accurate, Timely"
- "Speaking from Personal Observation"

The American Institute of Banking publishes a booklet entitled "The Los Angeles Banker". In its issue of July 1942, Page 17, it further describes the lecture to be given by subject under the name of MARGUERITE HARRISON, and again carried a photograph of the subject, as well as an article written concerning the subject by FRANCES MEAD, of the California Bank. In this pamphlet, she is described as "a trained political observer-journalist, whose travels have taken her to every country now involved in the war." Further, that her lecture will be in the form of a lecture-map talk-discussion class. The pamphlet indicates that the lectures are sponsored by the Women's Committee of the American Banking Institute. The pamphlet states that subject is studiously impersonal in her observations, and that she has proven herself startlingly accurate in her commentaries in a news world charged with propaganda. Further description of subject in this pamphlet relates that she began her career as a newspaper writer for the Baltimore "Sun" after her education in Europe and the United States had given her a rich background of world culture. The pamphlet states that the state of Maryland delegated her to go overseas just before Christmas in 1918 to show motion pictures of Maryland families and towns to the state's men in foreign service. Once in Europe Mrs. HARRISON soon made her way to Germany and was special correspondent for the Baltimore "Sun", and thence went to Russia, according to this pamphlet.

She is further described as really a foreign agent for the United States State Department when she was on assignment in Russia, since this country then was not officially recognizing the revolutionary government of Russia. The pamphlet states that under cover of newspaper reporting subject unearthed material valuable to this country, but that her spy activities were detected. The pamphlet indicates that subject was Prisoner 2961 in Lubianka prison in Russia, and that she lived the confined life of a political prisoner there for two years. The article reflects that through the efforts of the American Relief Administration, which had sent food and personnel to Russia to combat the famine, all political prisoners were released unconditionally. The pamphlet indicates that subject has travelled in Africa, where she was during the time of the filming of the motion picture "Grass". The article states that she later went to France, where she resided until recently; to England; thence to Nazi Germany; and in 1941 through the central part of Canada. The pamphlet states that subject

knows the problems of Japan, Siberia and Manchuria from first hand study, as well as knowing the problems of Turkey, Syria, and the entire Near East.

The lectures are by invitation only to members of the American Banking Institute, and an admission charge of \$1.00 for the series of four lectures is charged to members and \$1.40 for non-members.

The instant case will be kept open to report the result of observation of the other three lectures.

The original report of Source Q, together with the bulletin and pamphlet of the American Banking Institute described in this report, are being placed in the Los Angeles Field Division file.

- P E N D I N G -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE LOS ANGELES FIELD DIVISION:

At Los Angeles, California, will report substance of  
future lectures.

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Source Q described in this report is Confidential  
National Defense Informant [redacted]

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

FILE NO.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Clavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
62-1630

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| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA</b>  | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>8/22/42</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>7/22, 8/5, 19/42</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>D. W. MAGEE</b>                 | Mr. Coffey<br>Mr. Hendon<br>Mr. Kramer<br>Mr. McGuire<br>Mr. Quinn Tamm<br>Miss Gandy<br>Files |
| <b>TITLE</b><br>MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE, with<br>aliases: Marguerite Harrison, Margaret<br>Harrison Blake |                                  |  | <b>CHARACTER OF CASE</b><br><b>INTERNAL SECURITY</b> | CB   |

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Subject gave 3 additional lectures before the American Institute of Banking, Los Angeles, July 22, August 5 and 19, 1942. The subject matter of the July 22 lecture again concerned Subject's travel in the Soviet Union, and had reference to the Aleutian Islands, but was mostly descriptive of Russia. Subject claimed that she knew LENIN and had talked with him as well as having met STALIN. Subject's lecture on August 5 was on India and was descriptive, with considerable speculation, together with observation of her foreign travel. The lecture of August 19 concerned France, the Japanese situation, the Solomon Islands situation and made reference to her experiences in Berlin as well as in Russia when she was imprisoned. Subject carefully avoided any indication of favoring any racial group and was very speculative in her lectures. No further investigation will be made for the time being in view of the fact that this is her last advertised lecture as of August 19, 1942.

- C -

REFERENCE:

Bureau File No. 100-40298.

Report of Special Agent D. W. MAGEE, Los Angeles, Calif.,  
7/21/42.

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DETAILS:

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA:

This report covers lectures made by Subject on the dates of July 22, August 5, and August 19, 1942, respectively, which were given before members of the Los Angeles chapter of the "American Institute of Banking", at 629 South Hill Street, Los Angeles.

At the lecture on July 22, 1942, there were fifty or sixty people present. At the lecture on August 5 there were about forty women present, and at the lecture on August 19 there were approximately sixty persons present, all of whom were women with the exception of one or two men. This group of lectures represents a complete series and although Subject gave lectures before other groups on subsequent occasions, no additional coverage or investigation will be made on Subject's activities unless the Bureau requests further investigation.

An informant attended this lecture and is described as Source Q. The reports of informant Q covering the lectures of Subject on July 22, August 5 and 19, respectively, are as follows:

July 22, 1942

"Miss Harrison", as she is called, told of her personal travels in the Orient and Russia. She spoke without notes, as she usually does, and frequently referred to a map of the world. She stressed that she was endeavoring to give a view of Russia, rather than a military discussion, mode of transportation, dwellings in which she stayed, etc., which I will not include in this summary. She was much more definite in her opinions and less detached in her presentation than at any other time I have heard her speak. What impressed me as the highlights of her talk are as follows:

"The Soviet Union is three times larger than the United States. Very few people in this country seem to realize that the Ukraine, including Kiev, has been in the hands of the Germans for almost a year. This is a tremendous agricultural area and also that belt supplies about all the sugar, but more important at Odessa was the great, tremendous electric power plant - the Dneipstroy Dam. That Dam was largely built by an American, Col. Hugh L. Cooper. Russians blew up the Dam, but the Germans are enormously resourceful and no doubt have some of the industries functioning again.

"The Ukrainians are known as the "little Russians" or "Red Russians." The Germans have been very clever in taking advantage of that situation and have established a very flourishing puppet government in the

Ukraine and they have a Ukrainian Parliament. That part has not been invaded by the Guerrillas, and that must mean that the Germans are getting considerable support.

"The Donetz Basin supplies 80% of the coal and about 69% of the iron ore of Russia. Now Russian coal has to come from the Ural Mts.

"Another thing you don't hear about is the fact that Leningrad has been besieged for over a year and some of the largest industries are around Leningrad; they are now useless to the Russians. The Germans have possession of \_\_\_, Orel, and munition towns around Moscow. That is one of the handicaps the Russians have and that is why there is such a desperate cry for our munitions, and we are sending material around Norway and up through the Persian Gulf.

"The Crimea and Sevastopol were taken by the Germans and they have almost cleaned up the Crimea. Today they are pushing on to Rostov. They are moving so as to take Stalingrad, the importance of which is not only that it is the gateway to the Caucasus, but is the gateway to the supplies of the munitions from the allies. I have been all over that part of Persia and I would love to tell you about it some day. Through Persia is one of the safest ways to send in material to Russia.

"From Astrakhan there is nothing but a single track railroad. If Hitler takes Rostov, our munitions will have to go entirely by the Caspian Sea and up the Volga. If he moves across Stalingrad, he has broken the line of supplies of American tanks and munitions and will not have those to face. He will have shut off the sea route. That is the real purpose of that move of Hitler's; if successful it will shut out our supplies. There is a possibility that we may have a second front opened for us in the Near East. We have a tank corps in Egypt. We, with the United Nations, may be compelled to open a second front.

"The Germans will have a clear sweep and will block oil to the Russians as well as munitions, but will not be able to get a real amount of oil until they cross the Caucasus Mountains. There are two pipelines but to get across those Mountains, there is only one single track railroad and the Mountain passes go straight up from the plains 14,00 to 16,000 feet. There they have fat tailed sheep, caracul.

"The occupation of our three little Aleutian Islands, I am inclined to think, may be getting ready for an attack on Siberia. Manchukuo is already Japanese. In the event Russia came on our side, we would bomb from Vladivostok, many seem to think, but believe me the Japanese will be there first; we won't have a chance. The Southern half of Sakhalin Island is also Japanese. The danger to the Japanese is not from Vladivostok, which I imagine will be lost very quickly, but the danger is at

Petropavlovsk and Komandorskie Island, which is only about 450 miles from the Aleutians. The Japanese will want to neutralize Komandorskie and Petropavlovsk. Nikolaevsk is also of great importance; that is at the mouth of the Amur River and is very valuable because it is near enough for fighter planes - only about 1200 miles from the Japanese Islands. That is a very important Soviet base. Consequently the Japanese realize Nikolaevsk and Petropavlovsk are a deadly danger to them. The Japanese know all this.

"The North East Passage, up through the Bering Sea, over through the Kara Sea, was never developed until the Bolsheviks made it practical. The Russians have taken these rivers and used them for waterways for hydroplanes. They have developed coal, oil wells. (She told of building of houses on props based on rocks below the ice; ground frozen all year round; growing of wheat in two months; raising of tomatoes, etc. in the Arctic Circle in hot-houses with use of electricity, and other items previously reported in another lecture). The Russians have meteorological stations on all of these Islands which furnish reports which enable a fleet of ice-breakers to function most of the year. Local steamers serve between ports in the Arctic and Vladivostok. The ice-breakers chart the passage by the help of the patrol planes who relay the reports from the meteorological stations. Miss Harrison elaborated on this "fascinating development" and based her comment on a book which during the ensuing question period she stated was published in 1937, by an Englishmen, Smolker (?), "40,000 Against the Arctic". Miss Harrison continued:

"I think the effort of the Japanese in the Aleutians is to largely fore-stall our sending supplies through the North East Passage, which is about 3,000 miles shorter and no Germans are there, and it is an absolutely safe route. I think that is the sane and rational explanation about the Aleutian Islands.

"I have been all over the Eastern part of Siberia. I went from Tokyo some years ago. The Japanese have a very important base at Kuril Island. When I went to Hakodate - just a lone woman - this is sometimes called the Gibraltar of the East - I went out to photograph an old castle. A crowd followed me. My camera was taken from me and all the films were taken from me. That is the way the Japanese were watching us ten years ago when we were letting them photograph our harbors, etc. Then I went up to Southern Sakhalin Island. The Japanese have occupied it for five years after the World War and they were put out of that Island in 1922, following the Washington Disarmament Conference. The natives of old Sakhalin are very interesting; they are descendants of convicts who were sent there by the Czars. It will be very useful to

the Japanese also as it has oil, which they have a lease on, and also coal mines on the Eastern Coast. (She told of Harry Sinclair trying to obtain a lease for oil some years ago.)

"Nikolaevsk is the center of the big fishing industry. I went to Nikolaevsk and 900 miles up the Amur River only a few years ago. The boat I travelled on was like an old boat on the Missouri River with wooden paddles. The first time and last time I could eat as much caviar as I wanted was on that trip. It was served in big, huge platters for breakfast, with black bread. The boat burned wood for fuel. Placer miners were working all along these rivers. The finest and biggest tiger skins come from that part of the world - and not from India as many seem to think - these are much larger. It is one of the most romantic trips in the world. The Bolsheviks have better boats now than the one I travelled on.

"If there is a first class war in the next few weeks, the Trans-Siberian Railroad will be cut off immediately. When I came to Chita (?) I was arrested again by two guards and taken back to Moscow.

"Mongolia is a Soviet dependency now. From Peiping to Russia is a short distance and the Japanese may take that route. I left Kalgan, which is one way the Japanese may choose, in Inner Mongolia, and went with an Englishman - six people in a small Dodge car with our gasoline cans and baggage piled even with the tonneau - in an old-fashioned Dodge car - not a sedan but one with the old collapsible top. (Described rock formation of Gobi desert, grazing land, lack of roads, etc.) The Llamas are the only people who live permanently - the natives roam from place to place. A funeral in Mongolia is terrible as they feel the ground is full of spirits. They take their dead miles away and leave them to be eaten by dogs for that reason. (Touched on surroundings of the Living Buddha.) I stayed with an American (did not mention name) in Mongolia. We travelled over the old Silk Road of Marco Polo. I drove nearly a month after that with a picturesque Cossack and lived on tea and sugar, and black bread which you could occasionally buy, and a little meat dumpling that I carried along, as the tins I had brought from Peiping were soon exhausted. (Told of heating these dumplings which frequently froze, after she brewed the tea which she brought from Peiping).

"In Russia proper the Volga is just as useful to the Russians as the Danube is now to Germany. I travelled down the Volga almost from the top. Gorki, now a big manufacturing center for the locomotive industry, was formerly known as Niznинovогород. This was the terminal for the silk route from the Orient, and was a free city. The wealthy merchants of Europe used to gather there at their big Fair and buy the silks, teas, etc., from the east, before we discovered the sea route to Asia.

"Kremlin" means "citadel" and many of the old towns in Russia have Kremlins besides Moscow. Kiev, Nizninovorogord and other Russian cities as well as Moscow have Kremlins. The Kremlin at Gorki and Kiev are outstanding.

"I went down the Volga with Philip Snowden, head of the British Labor Party, Clifton (?), Bertrand Russell, who was barred from this country, and other English people were on that boat.

"Russia has 14 different nationalities which are recognized officially. (Following map) Kazan is a Mohammedan City and that area constitutes the Tartar Republic. I visited the town that used to be Sumara and is now Kuibyshev, the present capital of Russia. I feel sorry for the diplomatic people who have to live there. That part of the Volga is very ugly. Most of the Volga is very ugly. It has ugly clay banks, muddy yellow water, - it is not a beautiful romantic river as the song of the Volga Boatman would make you believe. The Don River on the contrary is very beautiful and I did not see any singing boatman on the Volga.

"I stopped at a German Colony which had been in Russia since the time of Catherine the Great, 200 years before. The Soviets, as soon as war broke out with the Germans, moved all those people and they have been dispersed all over Siberia. The Bolsheviks changed the name of that place where this German Colony was started to Magnitogorsk. We also visited the birthplace of Lenin, which used to be Simbirsk, on the Volga, and now Ulyanovsk (?).

"I knew Lenin and talked with him and heard him speak many times. He was thick-set, always wore English tweeds, very meek looking but was one of the most marvelous orators I have ever heard. (Described him as speaking to huge crowds yet appearing to talk with each one individually). I always remember as characteristic of Lenin the way he would stick his thumbs in this vest pocket (vest coat) when he talked. (She illustrated this). I met Stalin many times. Lenin never trusted Stalin. All Stalin did - he was the statistician of the Soviet Government. He was piling up the immense statistics which were used in the successive five year plans. Stalin was always very much in the background. (NOTE: This observer was tempted to ask if Miss Harrison knew Trotzky, but didn't as realized I was purely an observer. Might do so later if desired.)

Miss Harrison explained that the Russian words ending in "grad" (such as Leningrad, etc.) was the equivalent of our words ending in "ville". She proceeded:

"I have tried to give you sidelights on the great Soviet Union and make you visualize it as a country of real people. I don't think their form of Government is of real importance. I do not approve of it. What is important is what was important years ago when President Teddy Roosevelt made the Japanese accept a compromise peace because it was to our advantage. It is to our advantage to see that the Soviet Union does not go under. The Soviet Union is our nearest neighbor. It faces one of our most vulnerable spots in Alaska. I hear Communists sometimes and they boast of their achievements. One thing I know is the Russians are immensely brave and are fatalists, and one of their strong characteristics is that they are an agricultural people and they have the most tremendous love for the land and they are going to defend their land. When the Russians were largely serfs they fought just as bravely against Napoleon as they are fighting today under Stalin. The success of the Russian War has nothing to do with the form of Government in Russia today; they are fighting for their land and not a political system.

Miss Harrison concluded her 65 minute talk and questions followed for 25 minutes.

"She was first asked to describe the Central portion of Russia as she had only skirted the inhabited edges. She told of the agricultural crops, etc., and in an aside remark stated it was not generally known that Hoover (Herbert) and a man named La--- (Could not catch it, but sounded like Lacell or Lavell, but might inquire if desired, as traffic became loud at that moment) controlled all the aluminum concessions in the Urals but lost them when the Bolsheviks came into power. She was pointing to the Ural Mountains and Magnitogorsk area when she made this statement.

"In answer to other questions she replied:

"The Germans have kept a strangle-hold on Finland because of the valuable tin mines there. The Northern sea route is open for three months in the summer.

"The North East Passage is so important to Russia. That is why we are now bending every effort to build a road through British Columbia.

"Korea would not make a very good base for attack against the Japanese. The Japanese have control of every part of China through which we could get access to Korea. Korea is nearly all volcanic mountains.

"When again asked about her arrest in the Soviet Union, she explained: I happened to have some knowledge of Russian and to have worked in Germany between the period of the Armistice getting information for our Government and they thought I did good work and I was asked to go into Russia. I guess I was just as bad as these Bund gentlemen. I went as

a newspaper correspondent and got information - social, political, economic - and I was a spy and was put in jail. I was not an innocent victim; I was guilty and got caught doing my country's work. The issue means life and death for you and I was sentenced to be shot and was lucky to get out with my life.

"Stalin was educated to be a priest and turned out to be a bandit.

"Miss Harrison again stressed our need for transportation and pointed out on the map the long haul we now have to take our supplies clear around Africa to Egypt and the Near East, and to Russia. We have boys in India, she continued, and we have troops in every quarter of the globe. Don't let us criticize our government directly or indirectly.

"We had tremendous shipping losses in the last war, but today the Germans have the support of the huge ship-building yards of Holland, Denmark, and France, which they did not have in the last war. She again emphasized this was not a military discussion.

"Miss Harrison closed the lecture, with the applause of her attentive audience, and with their approval announced her next talk to this group, August 5th, would revolve principally around India."

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August 5, 1942

"Upon her arrival, MARGUERITE HARRISON informally opened her talk with recommendation of book by KURT WEISS, whom she stated tells the true story of the FBI.

"Highlights of her talk are as follows:

"The crisis in India is getting nearer and nearer. The Indian National Congress is to deliver its ultimatum Friday to the British and the British will be given one week to think it over. Ghandi, whom we all admire although some of his doctrines you and I don't believe in, yet of course he has done some very fine things, - Ghandi's statement that he would consider negotiating with the Japanese is very appalling not only to the British but to you and me.

"Nehru, a leader of the Communist Party, is a very rich man and extremely intelligent. Nehru says that if you give India independence, India will fight against the Japanese. Ghandi says they won't. Mohammedan Jinnah says they don't want to do what the Indian Congress requires. It's a nightmare - it's so fantastic. Then you have the Princes.

"The Japanese are now in Burma, some think merely holding off an invasion in India. If Nehru instead of Ghandi should have his way, the best fighters in India who are the Mohammedans - 80,000,000 of them - would never fight under a Hindu Army. The Mohammedans would probably fight the Hindus if the British got out. The Indian Army hasn't the possibility of maintaining itself in India without the support of the United Nations. None of the Indian leaders have had any experience from a military way.

"Out of the 390,000,000 people in India, 80,000,000 are Mohammedans. The rest are Hindus, Ghandi's following, etc., and are for the most part pacifistic. The allied forces cannot and are not going to retire from India, including our own.

(She then pointed out Calcutta and other points of interest on the map.)

"We are sending ships with supplies for the Indian Armies, and, most important, the only supplies practically that can get into China by cargo planes across terrific mountainous country from Calcutta, avoiding Burma to Chungking, China, where General Stillwell and the remaining part of our Eagle Squadron. So you see we have a vital need to keep China going. If we keep in contact with Chungking, which is inland, we can bomb Tokyo as we all want to do from there. We lost the chance to get supplies through Indo-China when Vichy France made that impossible. If we lose India, or India is allowed to get into a state of anarchy, where we cannot maintain our forces there, we will have lost our door to China. American planes with American boys are taking off while we are talking; they are taking off from near Calcutta with bombs for China.

"There is no oil in China. Until a few months ago, the Chinese were getting supplies from Russia. From Alma Ata (?), almost on the Sinkiang Border, a motor road goes to Chungking, to China. Until the Russians were so hard pressed, they were sending some supplies in by that route but I am afraid they will not be able to do so for some time. On India may rest the fate of this part of the United States.

"If China goes and the Japanese have no further concern there, then the Japanese threat to the Aleutians will become a reality. We have just as much at stake as the British have in keeping India in hand. Suppose the Japanese should get into India, either through Mr. Ghandi or through general demoralization. The Japanese are sinking our transports in the Indian Ocean. The next thing would be to block the entrance of the Persian Gulf. We have hundreds of men in the Bahrein vicinity and millions of dollars of investments. American interests there and the Anglo-Persian oil companies are supplying India with oil,

which is transported to China from India. At the top of the Persian Gulf we have hundreds of American engineers double tracking the railroad up to the Caucasus. We may hear of an allied military force which will have to keep from Uniting of Japanese and Germans through India.

"Here are the Mosul oil fields (pointing to map) in Iraq. They are invaluable to the war in Egypt and constitute one of the reasons the British have been able to hold the Mediterranean and Egypt. Pipe lines go to Haifa and Syria and the British and Free French are now occupying Syria.

"Our American bombers are undoubtedly getting a large part of their oil supplies from those Iraq oil fields. When you once let go of India, you lose all that. Oil is one of the principal things that they are fighting this war with. The Netherlands East Indies are gone. We and our allies would have no oil nearer than Pennsylvania, California and Venezuela and the Axis powers would have possession of the entire oil fields of the world, and that is why the British situation in India is so important to the United States and to you and I today.

(Miss Harrison then reviewed briefly some of the history of India for background purposes, commencing with British Queen Elizabeth, discovery of sea passage to India by Portuguese, Marco Polo's expedition, etc.) She continued:

"The Kazan Bazaar in Moscow today is still known as the Chinese City and that was one of the centers of trade with the Far East long ago.

The British were the first to use this sea trade route. The Portuguese who discovered it next came into India, and the French following, all within a hundred years. The French, Portuguese and British each set up their East India Company. The British settled around Calcutta; the French on the East Coast of India and the Portuguese on the West Coast of India. At that time the Mogul Empire was in existence and was established by the Mohammedans several hundred years previously. It was the only Empire that was ever able to unite all the Indians. These Mohammedans who are still refusing to cooperate with the Hindus and the Indian Congress, are still the most up to date and able people in India. This Empire went down in the 18th century.

"Seventy Princes would call in the East India Company officials and get ammunition, guns, etc. Every time the East India Co. would help them, they would get new grants. Finally the corruption and abuses got so great in the British East India Company that their charter was revoked by the British Government and Queen Victoria took over and that is how the British Government came into India.

"Then there was the period of Kipling, Lord Curzon, etc., when we talked about the white man's burden, Western finance for decadent peoples of the world, etc.

"It was our imperialism that got the place where we are living now for us. California and Texas were grabbed from Spain, which could be called nothing but imperialism. (NOTE: CALIFORNIA voted herself into U.S.)

"We occupied Nicaragua for some 16 years; we occupied Haiti until recently. We kept our protectorate for a long time over the Philippines. The fate of that part of the world waits on the outcome of the war. That was an age of imperialism. We had the idea every great nation had to be self-sufficient.

"We realize now that isolationism is just a pipe dream. The British and French were doing the same thing. The French extended their empire in Africa where it was larger than the whole of the United States. We and the British began to think in the terms of a united world where there would be no more imperialism. President Wilson really started the mandate system. Great Britain has consistently lived up to that idea of trusteeship. The other day we gave up Santa Domingo. The British inherited Iraq. In old imperialism days, no one would have given up that mandate. In 1929, Iraq was made a fully independent country and member of the League of Nations. In 1936 the British gave virtual independence to all countries and allowed Egypt, the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan - all around the Suez Canal what amounted to independence. We no more have a British Empire but a British Dominion on a purely voluntary basis, and now from it the British Commonwealth of Nations.

"In 1929, the States of Westminster, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, became independent nations. This process has gone on naturally by the Anglo-Saxon commonwealth, particularly in Iraq and Egypt. I must say that due to a lot of double dealing for which the present British Government is not responsible - that is Palestine. The British Government made promises both to the Moslems and to the Jews which it couldn't keep. They have been a lot more honorable in India. Every British Government since the early twenties has progressively given India more independence. (Touched on Montague, Chelsea and other reforms in India.)

"In 1939, there was a system of dual Government fixed up in India, whereby reserve subjects were kept entirely for the British authorities, such as finance and exchange, the Army, etc. and particularly at the time of the administration of Ramsey MacDonald, a Commission was sent out to India under Sir John Simon, who drew up a plan for the eleven provinces of India, giving them a workable plan. Also there was given a Chamber of Princes. That was nullified by the Indians themselves and not by Great Britain, largely because the Hindus and Moslems did not agree.

One wanted to be represented by communities instead of population.

"You must distinguish between Indian peoples. There are 700 leading Princes in India and that large third of India will have nothing to do with Mr. Ghandi. Each one of those Indian States has its own treaty with the British and it would not be possible for the British to turn all of India over to the Indian Congress. The Anglo-Saxons want to be legal and the British would have to break their treaties with every Indian Prince. Look at it this way: The President has waited three days to have those spies shot just because we want to be extra-legal. Then there are the untouchables. Hospitals, schools, etc., for them were furnished by the British.

"The Moslems of India, Egypt, Afghanistan, Persia, are part of these same Moslems in India. Anything in any of those countries effecting the Moslems, effects them also in India, and the other way round. Hyderabad (?) is as large as all the British Isles. The Assam of Hyderabad is the richest man - he has 200 ladies in his harem. Not many years ago, he took a caravan of 600 automobiles to take his wives and entourage to Mecca, instead of going by sea as he formerly had done. The ladies had luxurious trailers. I can't begin to tell you all the luxuries they had. It cost him five million dollars to make the trip - units for lighting, etc.

(Miss Harrison told of ruby necklaces, with rubies as large as guinea hen's eggs; of rugs woven with real pearls, emeralds, rubies, diamonds and other fabulous riches she had seen when visiting estates of certain Indian Potentates.) She continued:

"Sooner or later in the natural course of events there will certainly be revolutions in those native states, but we don't want it just now. The Princes of course don't want to lose their fabulous wealth.

"At Kashmir, there used to be house boats (do not know if they are there since the war), on which you could live luxuriously, with wonderful food, with five servants for \$100 a month American money. I have been telling my husband we must go back some day. I want him to see it.

"All of Asia is overrun in times of war by agents. In the last war, the Germans tried to get hold of the Mohammedans in the East and had their agents who spoke in their languages. In Persia the Germans spoke the language and were potential fifth columnists. Lawrence of Arabia spoke the language too and that is why he was so successful.

"When in Persia, I made a picture called "GRASS" which some of you may have seen. In 1916-17, the British occupied Persia with troops. I knew

the son of the Shah of Persia and knew him very well when he was a little boy.

"I heard from the tribes I was among in Persia of this German spy. "ALEMAN" (?) is the Persian word for German. They sang about him in their songs. The German spy VASPOS (?) was one of the most remarkable men, and was at one time German Consul in a small city in Southern Persia called YZEZ (?). Vaspos used to tell the tribes that the Kaiser was a Mohammedan himself and he was interested in freeing Islam. No one hardly had seen a typewriter or knew anything about one, so Vaspos would go into his tent and take his typewriter which he kept secreted, and make a lot of noises on his typewriter, and come out and tell them that he had just received word from Berlin from the Kaiser to confer decorations on the tribesmen. Finally the British caught him and put him in jail. He tried to bribe one of the guards but failed. He fasted during the day time but was really getting food from the outside at night. Finally, the Persians thought he must be very weak from lack of food and paid less and less attention to him. Vaspos managed to stuff a dummy to look like himself and with the help of friends who gave him a saw, he escaped. There are thousands of German agents just like him parading all over the Near East. I met him later after he had had malaria and he was raising Persian melons. I ran across Vaspos' widow later and we had a lot of correspondence. I asked her for Vaspos' memoirs as I thought they would make an exciting movie. But she was under Hitler and the poor woman was so terrified of the Nazis that she didn't dare let me have those memoirs. The Nazis have pushed those people aside and they actually starved to death, and I was told that Mrs. Vaspos was literally starved to death, but I don't know just how true that is. The Nazis put in those dirty devils like Von Ribbentrop.

"Questions followed as it was then 7:00 P.M. Miss Harrison responded in the main as follows:

"I think the majority of the Princes will back Britain, America, and the United Nations with money, supplies and men. What will happen to Ghandi's men if the men on the railroads, in the factories, clerks in government offices and so on all quit, and that would be terrible turmoil, but that would not be quite as bad as having Gandhi inviting the Japanese into India. The Sikhs are very virile and a very vital people and some of the Princes are Sikhs; they are fighters.

"In Kashmir, the rulers of the people are Hindus and almost all of the people in that district are Mohammedans.

"The Parsees in many ways are more advanced and are descendants of the old Zoroastrians of Persia. They are nearly all very rich and very old and are largely around Bombay. They give their women more freedom;

they are allowed to meet their husbands and their friends at dinner and entertain. The Parsee group is almost entirely pro-British. Some are in Calcutta too. Among the better educated Indians there is quite a lusty Communist Party.

"The Japanese student priests had a tremendous effect in Burma because Burma is a Buddhist country; also in Mongolia and French Indo-China. But in India there are not so many Buddhists.

"A great friend of mine is Gertrude Evanston (?) who used to be assistant editor of "ASIA" and who is married to a Hindu, now in New York, and I would like to have her opinion of India right now.

"Spectator seats for the Indian National Congress on Friday are selling for \$160.

"Buddhism and Hinduism are Pacifist and their people are dreamers as a consequence. They don't make good executives and military men and that is where the Islams come in. They have their missionaries in Africa (Moslem) for example and convert African tribes and they make a much more aggressive and virile people than the Hindus. The Mohammedans don't want to be engulfed in this wave of intellectual, impractical theories.

"The average young Hindu wanted to go in for a university professorship, law, journalism, etc., but is not interested in anything practical. The British have been taking some to Britain to become technicians, machinists, etc.

"55,000,000 untouchables would not have influence if the British had not always protected them and furnished schools, hospitals, etc., for them. They believe in independence of all Asiatic people, but would not want it achieved under a Gandhi Party, which might put them back where they were before. About 6,000,000 of them have been converted to Christianity.

"The caste system and the unwillingness of the upper classes to cooperate makes it impossible for the British to have a universal public school system in India.

"The British have largely prevented and discouraged child marriages. The British introduction of sanitation has done so much to prevent bubonic plagues, cholera, etc., and actually removed some of the worst plagues.

"In India the Communist movement is quite extensive, but the attitude of the British toward the Communist movement is much more lenient than it was. I think we ought to apply it to ourselves, that we are with

certain nations of the world who wish to preserve their own forms of Government and culture. They are all whether socialist, democratic like ourselves - they are all engaged in a common cause, fighting a common enemy, an enemy which demands uniformity with and submission to a political system and a cultural system. All the people who feel that we are rational allies in this present war - or so it seems to me.

"Poor old Gandhi has simply gone off his nut, or he is a traitor. I think people in England think Nehru is probably asking for more than they expect and perhaps for a bargaining reason and the Indian Congress may be subject to consideration, and if promise of independence is guaranteed by the United States they may accept it. Indian troops are fighting in Egypt, Abyssinia and maybe in the Caucasus.

"I think General Wavell is doing all he can to take over and organize the Indian Army and take over storage, etc., if necessary, and I suspect more Indian troops have been sent up into Persia to protect the oil fields.

"Churchill may be in Moscow. I am so thrilled with the way the leaders fly around these days. I want to tell you a little story that makes me blush every time I think of it, if there are no more questions. When I was a girl in England, about 16 or 17 years of age, I must have been very giddy. My mother knew the mother of Winston Churchill intimately. She was American born as you know, and I went around with her quite a lot too. She had two sons, Randolph who was killed in the Boer War, and then Winston, who was also in the Boer War but not killed. He was then serving his first term in Parliament. At parties I went to, he was usually there. He was very serious. I didn't like him. He would take me out to supper and discuss affairs of Europe and I would want him to notice a pretty dress I had on, or dance instead. He was an awful dancer - he would step on my feet and I would try to avoid him. My mother would tell me that I must remember that she and his mother were such good friends that I must be nice to Winston. Over and over she would tell me as I was leaving for a party to be nice to Winston. When I think of the opportunities I had and missed, I blush, as he undoubtedly is one of the greatest men in the world today.

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August 19, 1942

"'Miss Harrison', as she is called, stated: (in part)

"I will try to give you an outline of what you can expect in the months to come.

"I expect you have all been excited as I have been over the new Commando Raid on the Coast of France. It is really a glorified Commando Raid.

(Described how she heard the first news of the Raid over the radio, and dashed out and was confronted with the Los Angeles Examiner headlines which she viewed as very misleading, and which were to the effect: FRANCE INVADED.)

"We have unnecessary censorship, she continued. The Army Public Information Department comes out and gives us a phoney picture - all proved to be manufactured a few days later - of arrows in fields. Information that comes from English papers I never get in the American papers at all, yet the Government allows the headlines "FRANCE INVADED!" I think it is outrageous. Elmer Davis is doing his best no doubt, but there are too many irresponsible people running things at cross purposes.

"The Raid interested me because I happened to know Lord Louis Mountbatten when I was a young girl in England years ago. He is very good looking, intelligent. Something few people know is that he is really pure German. His father was the Prince of Battenberg, who married a daughter of old Queen Victoria. When the last war came, he had no intention of going back to Germany, but there was so much feeling that he changed his name to Mountbatten, but his name is really Batten and he is really German.

"Then Douglas Fairbanks is in the American Section of the Commandos and that is quite interesting. I think Fairbanks is behaving wonderfully in this war, for a movie star. These are the only two I know. Some of you may know a chap by the name of Lawrence from Los Angeles, I believe. Another interesting thing: This was a day raid. I just heard Harry Flannery over the air before I came down. Usually the Commandos blacken their faces when they go out on the night raids, but today they were painted green, tan and brown with streaks of white. (She described Dieppe as a delightful watering place where she had frequently stayed as a child; told of its dark brown sandy beach, white cliffs like Dover, topped with green fields, beautiful harbor, etc., and thought the paint on the faces of the Commandos tied in the sand, cliffs and fields of Dieppe very well.) I think the real meaning of this Commando Raid is that it was what you might call a dress rehearsal for an invasion. They had every kind of craft taking part, motor driven barges, escort warships, a curtain of bombers, fighting planes, tanks, etc.

"As to the situation in the Solomon Islands, I do not know whether we are too optimistic or not. That is our first offensive. Midway and the Coral Sea were very effective defensive victories. I don't think we ought to be too optimistic about this Solomon Island business as yet. Since Pearl Harbor we have been on the defensive.

"The Japanese are sitting still in the Aleutians. Their battle line has blocked any chance of our giving aid to Russia by the North West Passage. As their battle line, they have the Aleutians (pointing to large map of world), a broad gap of sea to the South to Wake Island. We still hold Midway, Hawaii, Calmyra, Samoa. We still hold Fiji Islands in the British hands, and New Caledonia which we owe to the Free French. We have a very complete but thin line of defenses from Midway to Tasmanian Sea, which is the high road over which we have to send our supplies for our fighting forces.

(She elaborated on Japanese fortifying various Islands while Congress argued about fortifying Guam.)

"The Japanese defenses are scattered from the Aleutians (referring continuously to map) - they took Wake long ago, Marshall Islands, Carolinas, Canary Islands - if we had had Wake fortified it would not have been so easy for them. The Japanese had done nothing but be doubtfully loyal to the allies in the last war. The Japanese have all the Netherlands East Indies today. The Solomon Islands are terrifically important. Undoubtedly the Japanese were going to Samoa if we hadn't taken the offensive. If we had let the Japanese sit on the Solomon Islands, they could have broken our communications in three directions.

"Australia is lacking in many raw materials that you must have to fight a war. Australia is getting gas for the airplanes, oil, etc., from us. (Pointed out difficulties in obtaining oil from Persian Gulf, and Netherlands East Indies in hands of Japanese.)

"A great many people believe we are going to gradually take over these islands, island group by island groups. Barring the Japanese fleet's interference, that would seem to be a way that might be completed by our grandchildren if then at all. (Quoted Rep. Diamond of Alaska and his appeal for activity there, which she heard over the radio that day, she explained.) He, and it is my belief also, believes that we will have to concentrate enough of our troops to make a direct attack on Japan proper. This way (via Solomon Islands which she pointed to on map) is a long, long job. It is 4,000 miles by sea from Tokyo to the Solomons. It is 6,000 miles from Los Angeles to Australia. From Kiska to Tokyo is only 1900 miles by air. If we could concentrate on Alaska, it seems to me we would have a chance of finishing the war in a much shorter time. The Solomon Islands is not strictly speaking a real offensive. Those are two definite possibilities you can look out for.

KURUSU and NOMURA have arrived back at the exchange point on the Coast of Africa. (Commented on their detention in Virginia up to this time.) One of them I happen to know very well. I met Admiral Nomura year ago. He is very intelligent and speaks English very, very well. He was considered in Japan to be pro-British and pro-Western. I knew his wife and

used to go to his house. I think he was a guileless person. I went with an Englishman who was agent for Armstrong liquor in the East (meaning Orient I presume), to tea at Nomura's home. To show you the type of person Nomura is, he went into convulsions of laughter because this Englishman showed how a monkey ate bananas.

"I was in Berlin during the period of the Armistice following the last war and a German Prince who was Ambassador to Britain when war was declared, told me he was kept in complete ignorance of the Kaiser's plans and actually heard of the war not through the German but through the British Foreign Office. I think old Nomura was probably used much the same way. I do not know so much about the other man (Kurusu).

"I think there is no cause to be dismayed about the situation in India. I think it is all for the best. I think the confusion might have been greater if India had been given her independence.

"Hindu women are kept in Pudah, which is called a harem in Turkey. There is a princess whom I knew when she was a little girl, the daughter of the former Sultan of Turkey, who used to live on the Riviera when I spent the winters there. I used to see her at Cannes, Nice, etc., when a little girl. She married a Moslem, the richest man in India. She is a European woman and she wanted to teach the civilian defense, Red Cross work like we women do here, etc., to the Indian women. Finally (after getting nowhere) she induced her father to sponsor Red Cross, air raid warden defense work study for the Indian women. They got a huge big hall in Hyderabad. The streets were cleared and soldiers stood on guard; no men were allowed; the women came with their faces covered in special cars, etc. That was the way the Indian women met for Red Cross work in that fantastic country.

"Personally, I don't think the Japanese will attempt to invade India. I think the Chinese are so heartened by American aid, and the Japanese have so many other things to do now, and I don't think the Japanese will want to invade India because the policy of Gandhi would work against them in reverse if they invaded India now.

"The situation in Russia is pretty bad and I don't think the most important part of the news is emphasized. The seriousness to the Russians is not the amount of territory but a curious distribution of things in Russia. The Germans now control all of the Ukraine, the Don River area and all this grain belt (pointing to map). One fourth of the population of the Soviet Union lives in that area, and in that area is 50% of their coal, 60% of their iron ore, 30% of their manganese, their entire supply of sugar. About 70% of their total wheat crop is in the Ukraine and

Kuban areas: about 40% of their oats, 45% of their barley. Practically all of the supplies they need to feed themselves come from that area. Near Leningrad are forests. Consequently the European part of Russia is fed from the part that Germany has taken. The people in the Ukraine are not real Russians but are known as "Little Russians" and have always wanted to be independent from Moscow. The Germans have moved not only a great many Poles and Dutch farmers to the Ukraine, but the Ukrainians are cooperating. Even 150,000 in the Ukrainian Army are fighting with the Germans and they control that enormous wheat and sugar producing area.

"In the Kuban area is the meat - cattle grazing country.

"All supplies in Russia will be shortened. All big machine factories are located in European Russia. The biggest locomotive works in all Russia are at Leningrad, which has been besieged for 15 months and nothing has come out of it. The Germans have not let anything come out of it. One of the reasons that the Russians are pressing so hard for the second front is because next winter there is going to be starvation and nearly all of their important munition factories have been put out of commission for one reason or another. Magnitorsk (?) has to supply Eastern armies. Again they are up against lack of railroad transportation. I guess the talk between Churchill and Stalin was more concerned with supplies than anything else. That is going to be a very important matter in the months ahead. It is going to be more and more difficult for us to get them there. We don't need to send American troops there but we have to keep those supplies open.

"We have American experts and engineers on this whole Iran railroad (pointing to map) and a British Army in Iran, and American engineers in units. We are building a railroad from Bagdad and another from India to lead directly into Persia. I would not be at all surprised to see the Germans if they succeed to come across to the Caspian Sea, which would shut off this route of supplies into Russia. If the Germans got to the Caspian Sea they would wipe out any remains of the little Russian Navy and bolster up their supplies, and sit in the Caucasus for the winter.

"There are 3 divisions of Poles who were taken prisoners by the Germans and have been released to go and fight in Iran. The Black Sea will be the Germans' private Sea and they can get the oil out not only by tank cars, but they will be able to send tankers and big barges across the Black Sea and up the Danube. It looks now like a reversal. Six months ago, it looked like the Germans would be short on what the Russians are short on now.

"The United Nations are building a railroad which will run up the East side of the Caspian Sea to connect with the Trans-Siberian Railroad, and that is our effort of last resort to get supplies in.

"(Miss Harrison commented on newsphoto of Stalin, with Averill Harriman seated at his right, and Churchill at Harriman's right, which she thought was clever propaganda for American consumption.)

"I lived at large in Moscow and in prison for over two years. (She speculated on the places Churchill might have stayed and described them as she saw them: Czar's palace turned into a museum, Metropole Hotel, etc.) Moscow can be as hot as Los Angeles in the summer, so I am wondering how Churchill got on with his zipper suits. They must have felt close to say the least. They say Moscow is a very sad place these days - building stopped, the much-publicized subway was never completed, and so on. Now a serious food shortage is there.

(Mentioned shift of General Auchinleck.) Egypt is at a standstill. I think what happens in Egypt is dependent upon what happens in Russia. I was talking with a British officer the other day who gave me some sidelights the other day. We don't know how many but we have a great many of our boys fighting in Egypt this minute. If Rommel should succeed and break through and take the Suez Canal it would not be the end of all things. It would really put him in a rather nasty spot. More than half of Africa (pointing it out on map) is solidly of the United Nations. The Red Sea is no good to Germany if they get there, if the United Nations are occupying all the shores. The Suez Canal won't be any more good to them than to us. The Arabian Moslems will be friendly to Britain if the Moslems of India are friendly.

(Told again of going to Persia to make film "GRASS". Said she was entertained there by a Sheik who entertained her and another woman and man from Hollywood on what he considered a choice yacht, but in reality was an old, old excursion boat probably from Bombay.)

"I have ridden over every inch of the country our engineers are now double tracking on mule back. The thermometer is around 140 deg. in the shade this time of year. There are no trees . . . Tribal people . . . Fought over horses, their most prized possessions. I sewed up their wounds and did everything except pull teeth, which I refused to do. That is the country our men are working in in the Near East.

"The Yugoslavs have a little second front all their own. I have often wondered how they were getting arms and ammunition. I will tell you. Every now and then you will read that the Chetniks have made a raid on one of those Adriatic ports. All of these ports now

are controlled by the Italians. The Chetniks make raids and whenever they do, a British submarine has slipped passed and they unload and that is the way they have been fighting. Some day when we read the history of those British submarines it will be grand reading, but it is one of the things we won't know until the end of the war.

"I think the vital and important thing is that we have reached the stage of bombing raids of the British, American and Free French. We must have a supreme command. Things went very badly in the last war until Foch was made the supreme commander. Before we commence real invasion, we will have to have an allied command.

"In this country, I think we will have to have a lot of things before our war effort really counts and things are very sad. I have no doubt we can win this war, but do we want it to last ten years, or two or three years? We are falling down on production. There is a tremendous amount of confusion in Washington which ought to be cleared up at once. Congress is afraid of labor until the elections are over in November. The Navy took over the General Cable Company. We have talked and discussed and got hot under the collar over jurisdictional strikes, but we have done nothing about it because everyone in Washington is thinking of their own political fence. Shortages are more imagined than real. My husband and I know a man who manufactures precision instruments for airplanes. They require very high grade metals and one thing is stainless steel. It is as much as his life is worth, he told us, to get stainless steel. And that is just one little instance I happen to know of. He has the priority but he is told it isn't there. He is told that the Navy peace time specifications have not been changed. We are still building ships that require all pantry trays must be built of stainless steel.

"We only produced 4,000 planes in May which is not up to the President's quota at all. I wanted to tell you this, but I haven't time to talk about this country as much as I would like to. I live on Formosa Street in Hollywood. A beautiful big Cadillac came along the other day. A handsome man stepped out, asked if I was a householder and I said that I was. He said, "I want you to vote for me". I just thought - a Cadillac car - tires - a big husky man finds nothing better to do than ask women to vote for him - that is typical of some of the things that are wrong with us in this country today.

(As her hour had elapsed, she followed with customary period of questions.) (She replied in part as follows:)

"As to exactly who should be the Supreme Commander, I am not sure that I know. I do not think the President of the United States should be the Supreme Commander because I think most emphatically we should have a military man. War is a highly technical business and war should be run by a highly technical person. I question the wisdom even of making our President our Commander-in-Chief. General Eisenhower, General MacArthur, General Wavell - none are particularly outstanding, but Foch was not outstanding particularly when he started out.

"As to Madagascar: Madagascar offered no resistance and it has been simple routine as the South Africans largely have Madagascar. The South African Union is composed of the original British Colony and the various Boer States that were taken into the South African Union after the Boer War. The Boers are very tenacious and hold on to their language and are like the Ukrainians and would rather have the Germans come in and get a dubious independence. The best of the Boers do not believe that way. General Smuts does not believe that way. He believes in the Union of South Africa. That feeling was stronger before the war broke out than since.

"I believe that after the war is over there should be no European domination of any of the peoples of Asia. The fate of all the peoples of the world hangs on keeping order in India. I don't think any foreign powers should own a foot of soil in the East. I should think the Chinese should favor that winning of the war now. (NOTE: This questioned concerned Chinese pleas for independence for India now which are being featured here in Los Angeles). I wrote books against foreign ownership in the Far East years ago. In the present emergency there has got to be a fence put against the Japanese from overrunning other countries and joining Germany. India should be kept in order and in line with the Allies. What news we get from China is fragmentary. What we get in our papers is often very anti-British. I think we have many fifth columnists. Don't believe all you hear about China because it may not be so.

"As to our giving up extra-territoriality in China, we have never given up extra-territoriality in China, but after the Boxer War we gave up Boxer indemnities, but Britain, Australia, etc., collected long indemnities in China and that was part of the reason the British took over Chinese customs. We gave our indemnities back to China for educational purposes. We have never given up extra-territoriality. We never took over extra-territorial indemnities like the British. The Japanese now occupy the Coast cities and there is no foreign settlement because of Japanese occupation.

"Of course I think neutrality of Southern Ireland is a menace to us as well as to the British, most emphatically. During the last war we had the right to use their Southern Ports and their West Coast, and now we have to go all the way to Londonderry instead. German raids might be initiated from Southern Ireland, but there is nothing we can do about it because we are the gentlemen - we in the United Nations - and respect the rights of neutrals. It is only the robber nations who do not respect these rights.

"DeValera's mother is Irish, but his father must have been partly Spanish and there is a great deal of Spanish blood in the South of Ireland. DeValera lived in this country for a time. Following the Battle of the Boyne, many went to Spain, married and returned later to Ireland. There are some people that are so passionately nationalistic that they help the enemy toward a doubtful independence.

(She told a story an Irish woman who had just returned from Mass told her, and which Miss Harrison stated might be one of those originals everyone was telling in Hollywood for all she knew, but which was to the effect: This Irish woman who had been to Mass met an Irishman who was extremely anti-British, and who when she challenged him as to what the Irish would do when the Germans moved in replied: "Why, why the British would never let that happen!" She felt many of the Irish had that attitude.)

"As to the Italins being against the United Nations, I do not feel that the Italian people are. I was in Italy in 1939, just two weeks before - up to two weeks before war broke out. I speak Italian as well as I speak English. My fascist friends loathed the partnership with Hitler. They wanted a war with France for Corsica. I have letters from Italians and I feel terribly sorry for they are worn out. They are in a very tragic and dreadful position. I saw Mrs. Hess was visiting Etta (daughter of Mussolini) in Italy, who had quite an affair with Hess we are told.

"She again thanked her audience for attending this series and concluded this session promptly at 7:30 P.M."

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No further coverage will be made on lectures of Subject  
MARGUERITE ELTON HARRISON BAKER BLAKE, with aliases, for the time being.

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